

The Blind in Cleveland

1906-1943



A Chronicle

BY

EVA BREWER PALMER



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FOREWORD

I HAVE READ with the keenest interest and satisfaction this chronicle of The Cleveland Society for the Blind. It has been my privilege to watch the development of this organization over a period of more than three decades, and during much of this time I had the privilege of participating in its activities, first, as an employee, later as a member of the Board, and still later as an honored guest and counsellor. Mrs. Palmer has set down faithfully and dispassionately the history and development of this agency. So far as I know it is almost the only instance in which the building of an organization for the blind has been recounted with so much detail and fidelity. It should serve as a guide and inspiration to workers both in the area of the blind and in other fields. It is to be regretted that we do not have more such chronicles available. They would be of inestimable help and stimulation to other blazing trails in unmapped fields.

It is fortunate that Mrs. Palmer could give her time to this undertaking, but the very fact that she wrote the chronicle herself has deprived us of a full account of the labors of the friend of the blind who has contributed most to the success of the organization. Mrs. Palmer came to The Cleveland Society for the Blind in 1910 filled with zeal to make it serve the blind people of Cleveland to the uttermost. She had a deep sympathetic understanding of the problems confronting blind people. Her faith in each individual client was unbounded. At the same time she never lost sight of the sound professional principles which her previous social work training had given her.

The Cleveland Society for the Blind under Mrs. Palmer's guidance grew from a simple, unpretentious instrumentality

through which generous friends of the blind of Cleveland might function in behalf of the sightless people of the Community into a city organization which stands as a model which many cities in this country have striven to emulate. Mrs. Palmer deserves the thanks of workers for the blind everywhere.

ROBERT B. IRWIN, *Executive Director*,
American Foundation for the Blind, Inc.,
New York City.

INTRODUCTION

AT THE TURN of the century a number of the agencies serving the social service needs of Cleveland were already established, some with a record of years of activity behind them, while others had foundations newly laid for future expansion. Among the latter was Hiram House, the first social settlement in Cleveland. Started in 1896 by George A. Bellamy, it was named for the college from which he had graduated. His early sponsors were men outstanding in the life of the city—among them being Dr. Paul Sutphen, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, Dean Charles D. Williams of Trinity Cathedral, Fred C. Howe, Starr Cadwallader, and Harris R. Cooley, City Welfare Director, whose vision had led to the establishment of the Cooley Farms at Warrensville.

The first branch of the Cleveland Public Library was established in one of the Hiram House buildings in 1898, and in 1900 the first brightly lighted playground for year-round use and having trained workers, was opened. Before the organization of the Visiting Nurse Association, Hiram House had on its staff a trained nurse whose salary was paid by Mrs. S. H. Morse.

Mrs. Samuel Mather, one of Cleveland's foremost philanthropists, had watched the development of the Hiram House program with great interest, and in 1897 she and her husband built Goodrich House, located in a congested downtown area. It was here that the first little reading club of blind people, started by the Public Library, met for several years, the residents of the House becoming much interested in the project. This center made a marked contribution to the settlement movement throughout the country, and perhaps its most distinguished resident was a young attorney of Cleveland whose name was Newton D. Baker.

The Cleveland Public Library was opened in 1869 and was known as the Public School Library, but was free to the general public. John G. White, one of Cleveland's foremost citizens, was president of the Library board and was instrumental in bringing Mr. Brett to the city. William H. Brett became Librarian in September 1884 and served continuously up to the time of his death (August 24, 1918). He originated the open-shelf system, and became the target of a great deal of criticism on the subject. His vision and initiative won success and the general adoption of the plan to give the public free access to the books. Another achievement was the extension of library privileges through the schools and outlying districts. He dreamed of serving the entire city and neighboring villages with branches of the library, and this was fully carried out—in part by him and later by Miss Linda Eastman who was made Vice Librarian in 1896, and in 1904 assisted Mr. Brett in organizing the Western Reserve University Library School. She became Librarian on Mr. Brett's death in 1918 and served until her retirement in 1938. Many honors came to her, among them the presidency of the American Library Association. She was on the faculty of the School of Library Science up to the time of her retirement.

Back in 1900 the Cleveland Library was well known, having a collection of 170,123 volumes; by 1931 it had become the third largest Library in the Country, and at the close of 1941 the collection numbered 2,112,080 volumes.

Miss Eastman's interest in the blind began with her concern over sightless borrowers for whom little in tactile print was available. Books for the blind at that time cost ten times as much as ordinary books, they were produced in several different systems of printing and their size was such that the existing shelving could not accommodate them. Miss Eastman organized a reading club for the blind to meet at the Library every Wednesday afternoon. Interested friends brought the club members to the meetings in their carriages or on the street cars, and two of the present members of the Optimist Club well recall being taken back and forth by the coachman of Mrs. Samuel Mather. Miss Eastman also started a ticket bureau and by December 1907

was sending out 700 cards to Symphony subscribers, urging them to donate their unused concert tickets. She was very active in the organization of the Society for the Blind, was one of its first three trustees, and seldom missed a meeting up to the time of her resignation in January 1908. Her interest in all phases of work for the blind has never ceased, and the growth of the Library for the Blind has brought her great satisfaction.

The Bethel Associated Charities was organized in 1884 and was a consolidation of two previous efforts to alleviate conditions among the needy of the city. Ten years later it was evident that there was much duplication among unrelated agencies and that one strong organization was much needed. This was accomplished in 1900 when the Cleveland Associated Charities was incorporated, thus beginning a movement which was to count heavily in the life of the city. Relief work was, in time, changed from alms-giving to family rehabilitation, with material help only one feature in a general plan. Among the men prominent in the early years were General James Barnett, who was president from 1898 to 1908; others were F. A. Scott, C. C. Bolton, J. W. Walton, and H. R. Groff.

James F. Jackson became Superintendent in 1904 and was to continue in this position up to the time of his death (1927). His coming marked the beginning of modern social work in Cleveland, and his influence and organizing ability were felt in every movement for the betterment of the people of the city. The next year after his arrival he helped to promote the Penny Savings Fund for the encouragement of thrift among the poor, the Anti-Tuberculosis League, and the Training Course for Social Workers which started with four students.

Early in 1906 his organization was requested by the Probate Court to visit and report the facts, concerning the applicants for the State Blind Pension. Sightless persons numbering 117 were called upon by Associated Charities visitors who became conscious of their many needs other than for financial aid. A volunteer from the Friendly Visiting Committee of the Associated Charities gave nearly all his time for several weeks to calling in

the homes of the blind. In commenting on his report Mr. Jackson said, "It is neither good economy nor good ethics to pension a man who can be taught to support himself." A complete census of all the blind in Cleveland was in Mr. Jackson's mind and was suggested at the initial conference called to consider the advisability of organizing a Society to deal with the entire problem.

Mr. Jackson's name was first on the first list of contributors to the Society and he was one of the three trustees elected when the Society was organized. The minutes show that he rarely missed a meeting up to the time of his resignation in April 1909. His wise counsel was always available and his interest continued to the time of his death.

The visiting Nurse Association was organized in 1902, and was sponsored by such well-known people as Mrs. Perry W. Harvey, Mrs. James R. Garfield, Mrs. Arthur D. Baldwin, Miss Belle Sherwin, Mrs. John Lowman, Newton D. Baker, and Fred C. Howe.

The pioneer work of this organization was done by the superintendent, Miss Matilda Johnson, who, with James F. Jackson, laid the foundation for co-operation among agencies which is today a recognized feature of social work in Cleveland. Through the interest and generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Mather, John D. Rockefeller, and Mr. and Mrs. Jay C. Morse, it became possible to place a nurse in each of the three settlements—Hiram House, Alta House, and Goodrich House.

The Committee on Tuberculosis, under the leadership of Mrs. Lowman, brought together representatives of education, labor, religion, and other varied interests to consider the control of tuberculosis. A nurse was later furnished to serve the first tuberculosis clinic and to do the follow-up work. The need for medical inspection in the Public Schools was also demonstrated. The Visiting Nurse Association, together with the Milk Fund Association, started the first infant clinic which later became the Babies' and Children's Hospital. The Visiting Nurse Association

furnished the first nurse to supervise crippled children returning from Rainbow Cottage, now Rainbow Hospital.

In all their calls during this period (1902 - 1906), the nurses had frequent occasion to be of service to blind individuals and they became conscious that the special needs were largely unprovided for. Miss Johnson and Mr. Jackson were especially impressed with the urgent necessity for suitable employment for capable blind men and women. Miss Groff, one of the volunteers of the Association, suggested training in massage and Miss Johnson went so far as to arrange for an instructor. This was held in abeyance, however, until the proposed organization should make a further study of the matter.

BEGINNINGS — 1906 - 1911

“In 1906 those citizens of Cleveland who had had the misfortune to lose their sight, were sitting in darkness in a double sense — that darkness which was theirs alone and an obscurity which hid them from their fellow citizens.”

Prudence Sherwin.

IN MARCH 1906, representatives from the Public Library, the Visiting Nurse Association, the Associated Charities, and the settlements held a meeting to discuss plans for meeting the needs of the blind, many of whom were already known.

Miss Marion Campbell had been invited to attend the conference as she had recently come from Boston where she had been interested in work for the blind, and especially in weaving as a practical occupation for sightless people. She was a resident of Goodrich Social Settlement and she offered to try to obtain space there for an experimental class in weaving. This was secured through the generous interest of Mrs. Samuel Mather, and the class was started in the late spring. This proved so successful and general interest in the movement was so plainly aroused that a Society was organized in November of the same year (1906).

Much of whatever success was later achieved was due to the type of people who participated in the formation and early development of the Society. Among them was Miss Prudence Sherwin who was to become a leading figure in work for the blind, not only locally but also nationally, through her long connection with The American Foundation for the Blind. The first president of the Society was Dr. (later Bishop) Stearly, an Episcopalian rector who was of the greatest assistance to the movement. Wm. H. Hunt was president during 1909 and 1910, having given invaluable service as vice-president and chairman of the Finance Committee. With the single exception of Miss Sherwin, all twelve of the presidents, up to 1943, have been men, the average time served being three years and three months. The past presidents, without exception, remained as members of the executive board which guided all the activities of the

Society. The new presidents brought fresh interest and ideas, but were able to draw on the experience of their predecessors.

The name chosen for the new organization was "The Society for Promoting the Interests of the Blind in Cleveland." This was exactly descriptive of its proposed function but proved too long for general use—one contributor making his check to "The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to the Blind;" while another expressed the wish that his check might be larger and the name of the Society smaller. The name was later changed to "The Cleveland Society for the Blind;" and Miss Marion Campbell was appointed as the first Executive Secretary. Space in Goodrich House for the activities, office, and shops, was given for a nominal rental for several years, and funds for operating expenses were raised through a slowly growing list of contributors. This income was augmented by proceeds from annual sales of blind-made articles which were held in various stores in the downtown area where home-cooked lunches were also served. Not the least advantage of this plan was the excellent publicity given to the movement.

THE SOCIAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

From the beginning, the contribution made by the women's committees has been beyond estimate. The aims of the Society, as stated in its first published report, were: Investigation, Securing Legislative Support, Industrial Employment, and Prevention of Blindness. In all these fields the women's group worked tirelessly and the Social Service Committee, under the leadership of Miss Emilie Jungermann, became a bulwark of the Society. Starting with eight members in 1907, its early concern was with the school children and the old people. The aged and infirm among the blind comprised a large group and for them many services were needed. Too often, they were members of families of limited income where the round of duties left little margin of leisure or much attention to the blind member. Regular calls by an understanding visitor brought comfort to the blind person, and many fast friendships were formed. As

home teaching was developed by the Society, the older people were taught simple crafts, and, when possible, to read some system of the raised type books which were available in the Public Library.

EMPLOYMENT

The weaving shop of the Society early produced articles of such merit that they were sold not only in Cleveland, but in various parts of the country.

A training class in chair seating was begun and one man, who had learned broom making at the Ohio State School for the Blind, was assisted in the sale of his brooms.

Basket making was started by a man whom the Society had sent to the Columbus School to learn his trade, and his product was so satisfactory that he was furnished with steady employment.

A register for blind piano tuners and also for men qualified to play for dances, enlightened the public as to ways in which their own needs could be served while at the same time work could be given to well-qualified blind men.

During 1909 the Society started its first broom shop, two of the trustees paying for location and equipment. Frank Burlingame, a high-type man who had lost his sight in middle age and had then learned broom making, was the first superintendent. He continued in this position for many years and developed the shop into the Society's leading industry and best known activity.

LEGISLATION

During the year 1908, the Society actively sponsored two bills before the Ohio Legislature. One was designed to create a Commission for the Blind, with authority to establish work shops for able-bodied adult blind and to inaugurate the teaching of trades and also of reading for those unable to leave their homes. Another provision looked toward possible prevention of a large percentage of blindness through cooperation with existing medical agencies. This bill became law and \$5,000.00 was appropriated for the work of the Commission during its first year.

The second bill was to provide a pension for persons who, because of loss of sight, were unable to contribute to their own support. A similar law had been enacted in 1904, but was declared unconstitutional. The later bill was more carefully drawn and was passed, Miss Campbell's efforts being of great assistance.

EDUCATION

Day School Classes in Cleveland

In 1900 an experiment in teaching blind children in the public schools was begun in Chicago and was followed by similar effort in Milwaukee. New York City was also making definite plans to start public school work, and, with such precedents, the Cleveland Society in 1908 appointed a committee to confer with the Board of Education, looking toward an opportunity for teaching the normal blind child in the public schools. The State School for the Blind in Columbus had opened its doors, in a small house, in 1837, with five blind pupils and one teacher. Through the years since that early beginning, the school has continued to be of prime importance, its resources and leadership being sought by the later movements throughout the state. The Day School plan which allowed blind children to remain in their own homes and attend school in competition with sighted pupils, seemed preferable especially in large communities where the number of blind children was considerable.

The Cleveland committee counseled with Almeda Adams, blind teacher, who spoke with deep feeling of her longing for her own home when she was a little pupil at a state institution. She also pointed out that not the least advantage of educating the blind and sighted together is that the capabilities of the blind are recognized and their opportunities in life are increased.

The initial work of the Cleveland committee met with favorable consideration, and the names of eight children eligible for a public school class were submitted, a special teacher was appointed, and the class was opened in April 1909. By the end of that school year, the experiment had proved so satisfactory that a regular department was opened in September.

In securing Robert B. Irwin for supervisor, the Cleveland Society was instrumental in opening a career for a man who today is a leading figure in the country, if not in the world, in work for the blind. Losing his sight at five years of age, he entered the Washington State School for the Blind from which he was graduated in due time. He then enrolled in the University of Washington, from which he received his B.A. degree. The University Club of Seattle granted him a scholarship and he journeyed from the west coast to the east, entering Harvard as a graduate student. The following year he received his Master's degree. He then, while still a student in the graduate school of Harvard, spent two additional years observing the educational work in several of the long-established residential schools for the blind, such as Perkins Institution in Boston, the Overbrook School in Philadelphia, and the New York Institute for the Blind.

He was greatly interested in the following opinion stated by Samuel Gridley Howe in 1871, "With a view to lessening all differences between blind and seeing children, I would have the blind attend the common schools in all cases where it is feasible. Depend upon it, one of the reforms in the education of the blind will be to send blind children to the common schools to be taught with common children." The young man with this ideal, and after adequate preparation, was eager for just such an opportunity as Cleveland offered, and his connection with the schools of Cleveland and with the Society for the Blind made a lasting contribution to both. He later wrote on the advantage of the public school plan the following, "It gives to the blind child the benefits of a normal home life, and teaches both parent and child their mutual obligations and responsibilities. It accustoms the blind person from the first to the inevitable competition with sighted people. It causes the seeing population to look upon their sightless companion as an ordinary individual, recognizing his possibilities as well as his limitations." In an article by Dr. Hans Kohn, he makes the statement that history is made if a man, or an aspiration, on the one hand, and an objective opportunity on the other hand, coincide. When the history of work for the

blind is written, Robert B. Irwin's name will be among the few who have made the greatest contribution to the cause.

In addition to the regular curriculum, Mr. Irwin arranged that his pupils should have manual training, as blind children are often deficient in the use of their hands. One of the weaknesses in educating blind and sighted children together had been the failure to supply opportunity for musical training. In Cleveland, the Society undertook to make up this defect, and a blind music teacher was engaged to give instruction in instrumental music to children who might benefit from it. The teacher was Miss Gertrude Leininger, a talented young woman who had majored in music while attending the Ohio School of the Blind and had then studied at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

One of the early problems in connection with classes for the blind in the public schools was that of transportation. Many of the children had to travel long distances, and carfare for the pupil and his guide was often more than the parents could afford. This need was met by funds from the Society which, in addition, supplied clothing where needed.

Little Mary, totally blind from birth, was an example of the great need for educational provision such as the Society was arranging. She was a member of a family where no English was spoken, and where there was not the least understanding of her problem. She was kept in the house all winter and in the small back yard in the summer, and was like a timid little animal when a visitor from the Society found her. Arrangements were made for her to enter the class for the blind, and the Executive Secretary called for her early one morning and then found that she had never been on a street car. She screamed every time the car stopped and started, and was trembling with fright when she finally reached the school room. She proved to be a pupil of average ability and became very proficient in all kinds of handiwork. A member of the Social Service Committee presented her with a beautiful doll on the first Christmas after her release from the prison of ignorance, and this person, whom she named Rosie, became her inseparable companion.

Educational opportunities for the adult blind were an early

concern of the Society and a beginning in home teaching was made in 1908, Miss Winifred Simonds being the first home teacher. Mr. Thomas Sloane, a fine blind man, was appointed as teacher for the men and as a result of their efforts the Department for the Blind in the Public Library found its patronage greatly increased; 129 volumes in Moon Type or New York Point were added to the collection during 1909, and of this number 31 were music or books on music or musicians.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

In 1910 the Society organized a campaign for sight saving. A special committee was formed with members representing the Academy of Medicine, City Board of Health, the Visiting Nurse Association, the Babies' Dispensary, and several other organizations. Visitors from social agencies had discovered many midwives practicing without authority, and it seemed apparent that the first effort of the committee should be to secure definite knowledge of the practice of midwifery in the city. Accordingly, the committee engaged the services, assuming the salary, of a visiting nurse for a preliminary investigation. Her report on the first 91 midwives investigated shocked the community, and during December 1910 and January 1911, 28 midwives were arrested for unlawful practice. Convictions followed and fines were imposed in a majority of these cases. Following publicity on cases of blindness resulting from neglect on the part of midwives there were reported to only one of the organizations represented on the committee, 38 cases of ophthalmia in children under five years of age. Of these, four were totally blind, three partially so, and in the remainder, 31 cases were still active.

The City Board of Health added Ophthalmia to the list of infectious diseases to be reported, and the committee had the State laws on Ophthalmia printed in several languages and distributed to all the midwives.

At the suggestion of the committee, the Society continued the services of the nurse during the spring of 1911, her duties being to check up on the midwives and to follow all new cases of

blindness reported to the Society. In time, the Babies' Dispensary and Hospital took over all cases involving the sight of infants under three years of age, and the newly-created Social Service Department of Lakeside Hospital assumed responsibility for those above three years.

In the fall of 1909 the Ohio Commission for the Blind secured the services of Charles F. F. Campbell to deliver lectures on "Needless Blindness" in various parts of the state. A vigorous and convincing speaker, Mr. Campbell had literally spent his life with blind people as his sightless father, Sir Francis Campbell, was Director of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, outside of London. Charles Campbell in 1909 was connected with the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind and in time became an outstanding figure in the work all over the country.

In the same year, 1909, Ohio became one of four states participating in a national movement for prevention of blindness, the Russell Sage Foundation and the American Medical Association sponsoring the movement. From this beginning came the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, one of the great forces for the preservation of vision in the country.

In November 1909 the Cleveland Society for the Blind was incorporated as an organization not for profit and the same year received a card of endorsement from the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce. The report of the Treasurer as of January 1, 1911, showed a balance of \$201.68, the two largest items of income for 1910 having come from contributors, \$2,824, and the annual sales and lunches which netted a total of \$2,217. The industrial shops had operated at a loss, which was not surprising as all the workers had been practically untrained in the beginning.

The close of the year 1910 found the Society firmly established as a member of the family of social agencies. Of them Mr. Irwin wrote, "Cleveland is fortunate in being one of few cities in which there is no antagonism among the different societies organized for charitable purposes."

During the five years which Miss Campbell spent with the Society she inaugurated much of the work which is being carried on today. She aroused the community to its responsibility for

the well-being of its blinded citizens; she drew on the then limited experience in city wide work in order to set up a pattern for Cleveland to follow; she did a great deal of public speaking before groups, these included the Ohio Legislature. When she came to the Society it was little more than an idea and a hope; when she left, the needs of the six hundred blind of the city had been studied and provision made for meeting many of those needs.

Dr. F. Park Lewis, eminent Ophthalmologist and a member of the New York Commission for the Blind, wrote at this time, "To utilize the neglected productive capacity of this large body of the people and to conserve those equally precious elements of character inherent in a self-reliant people, is a work to challenge the most resourceful social statesmanship."

In accepting a place on the Advisory Board of the Cleveland Society, Helen Keller wrote, "Everywhere the blind are hailing with joy the coming fulfillment of their desire to be useful, to be no longer a burden to themselves and to their friends."

PROGRESS—1911 - 1919

“I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame; I was a father to the poor, and the causes which I knew not I searched out.”
Job 29, 15-16.

MISS MARION CAMPBELL resigned as Executive Secretary of the Cleveland Society for the Blind in the Spring of 1911. She was never to leave the field, however, and after brief connections with the State Commissions of Ohio and New York, she became the director of the Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness to which she made a distinguished contribution up to the time of her death in 1927.

Mrs. Eva B. Palmer, a life long resident of Cleveland, was appointed to fill Miss Campbell's place and assumed her new duties on June 19, 1911. She was an enthusiastic type of person with a deep interest in people. She had had experience as a volunteer in social work for several years and had just completed the two-year training course given by the Associated Charities. James F. Jackson, Director of the Charities, had been active in the formation of the Society for the Blind and was happy to have a graduate of his course appointed to a position with the Society.

Among her other activities, Mrs. Palmer assumed the chairmanship of the Social Service Committee which she was to keep for the following thirty years. Its membership was expanded to thirty-five, with sub-committees on Visiting, Recreation and Clubs. For the ensuing ten years this was the only committee on social service, and the energy and devotion of its members were such that Mr. Jackson, at an annual meeting, stated that it constituted the finest example of volunteer service in the country.

One of the first efforts of the Recreation Committee was a reception for all the blind, which was held in the gymnasium of Goodrich House on New Years Day, 1912. It was largely attended by guests who appreciated the sociability, the music, furnished by blind players, and, incidentally, the fine refreshments. Herbert W. Strong, who was president of the Society at the time, acted as master of ceremonies for the big party.

FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

Study of the minutes of the period reveals constant anxiety over the financing of the varied activities of the Society. The Secretary sent out hundreds of letters of appeal and all the publicity stressed the need, as budgeting was difficult with no dependable income in sight. Carl N. Osborne became Treasurer in 1913, and he at once worked out an improved system of accounting which was of lasting benefit. He served as treasurer for three years, was chairman of the Finance Committee for three additional years, continued as a trustee, and much later became president of the Society.

A majority of the social agencies soliciting funds from the public united, in 1913, in forming the Federation for Charity and Philanthropy, the chief object of which was to eliminate duplication of money-raising efforts. Agencies composing the Federation turned over their lists of contributors who were urged to give through the newly established channel. Thereafter, the Society received funds through the Federation and also from a slowly decreasing number of direct givers, and the new plan was a distinct improvement over the earlier procedure.

In 1917 the Federation was merged with the Cleveland Welfare Council, an advisory body which had as its purpose community planning and the promotion of constructive and preventive work. The new name was "The Welfare Federation of Cleveland."

None of the industries of the Society were self-sustaining, and there was urgent need for considerable amounts of money; as, for instance, when broom corn was to be purchased. By 1914 this situation had become acute and, at the suggestion of the trustees, the Foundation for the Blind was established—donors to the fund being Samuel Mather, H. A. Sherwin, John and S. L. Severance, H. G. Dalton, J. H. Wade, and A. A. Augustus. The sum of \$3,250 was advanced to a board of five trustees who were not otherwise connected with the Society. They were Warren Hayden, Malcolm McBride, S. Livingston Mather, Samuel Nash, and George B. Siddall, and it was arranged that

they should advance, from time to time, such sums as were needed for the purchase of supplies, no interest being charged. The fund was to be kept intact for emergency purposes only, the loans to be returned to the trustees of the fund. This arrangement proved to be a saving factor through several ensuing years.

EMPLOYMENT

Statistics at the beginning of 1913 showed a total blind population of 620, the employable blind numbering 352. Of this number 152 were earning some money by their own efforts, many of them, however, being capable of doing much better paid work if it could be secured. A start in this direction was made by the Executive Secretary who located a job of nutting bolts at the Lake Erie Iron Company and placed a young and skillful man with that firm. His success was cited in making similar placements in other factories.

Continual appeals to the public for work suitable for blind men and women were made; the trustees, especially the members of the Industrial Committee, approaching their business friends on the subject. The three men of this committee were H. W. Strong, chairman, F. H. Teagle, and James R. Mills. These men served for many years and were of great help in this difficult department of the work. One response came from J. W. Walton, who made a trip to the office of the Society in 1915 to suggest the assembling of wire rope clamps. This was found to be practicable, and soon six men were so employed. Up to the present time (1943) this firm has never been without totally blind workers in its factory.

Another company which responded to the appeal was the National Screw & Tack Company—the Alexanders, father and son, continuing their interest and cooperation as long as they lived. At one time they had sixteen blind men at work nutting bolts, by hand or machine, five of the men forming an orchestra which played for dancing three times a week, for the benefit of the office help.

An ambitious young man, a shop worker before he was blinded

by an accident, had been placed in the broom shop for a year before the right opening in outside industry was found. He was very happy in his new connection and remarked, "You know, I would rather have a man's job than a blind men's job." This man is still working in a factory (1943). With continued effort, by the end of 1918, 52 blind men and women were regularly employed in Cleveland factories where they proved to be the best of object lessons to a skeptical public.

Every effort was made to increase the patronage of the piano tuners, the Society paying for advertising in the telephone directory and the daily papers. The volunteers personally approached their friends, also churches and public halls. In time the tuning in the East Cleveland, Lakewood, and finally in the Cleveland schools was secured, and the capable blind men, making their way alone to all parts of the community, were reasonably busy.

Chair seating was done by several men in their homes, any one needing such work calling the office of the Society and obtaining the name of the nearest caner.

The rug weaving industry was, at first, carried on in the same way, the Society doing the advertising for both and selling the products of the looms in the many sales of blind-made products which were held. Linen weaving was done under direct supervision, at Goodrich House, and three blind women were so employed. By 1915 all the weaving was concentrated at Goodrich House.

Broom making was begun in 1909 in quarters in one of the Bradley blocks on High Street, with a blind foreman and four workers. The quality of the brooms was good from the start, only the best of materials being used, and the trade increased year by year. Brooms for all purposes were made, preference being given to those for heavy use but with several styles of house brooms produced to meet the increasing demand. Up to 1913 house brooms were delivered singly to the homes and this was both expensive and laborious. The Chandler & Rudd Company offered to carry them in their three stores and also to make deliveries whenever their customers indicated a preference for the blind-made article. This arrangement was in force for a good

many years, and was just one of the many ways in which the public showed appreciation of the efforts of the Society.

A classification of customers, other than individuals, was made for the year 1918 and showed a total of 412, with 333 of these being factories. The shop quarters were inconveniently located and too limited in space, and a move was made in 1914 to the former gymnasium of Goodrich House just adjacent to the offices of the Society. Sales for the first full year (1910) amounted to \$1,217, and increases for the following few years were as follows:

1911	\$ 3,585
1912	4,239
1913	7,625
1914	11,508
1915	13,770
1916	18,567
1917	26,515

As time went on, through the activities of the Society, more and more blind people became acquainted with each other and by comparing notes, were stimulated to make greater efforts for themselves. The Society was alert to help each one and for four Saturday evenings in April 1917, a course in salesmanship was given at Goodrich House. All who were selling their wares or their services were invited to attend and 65 enrolled, this number included piano tuners, teachers, storekeepers, and insurance men, and the canvassers who sold from door to door. Several of Cleveland's leading industries, notably the Sherwin-Williams Company, furnished the speakers, with the result that mutual interest was aroused, the leaders responding to the eager and intelligent questions raised, and the blind people most appreciative of the effort in their behalf.

RECREATION

People whose lives are crowded with activities, hardly realize the need for variety among those whose handicap is a limit in every direction. For them to live bravely and cheerfully in the

dark, there must be happy times to which the mind can recur through long hours of idleness. Understanding volunteers have planned to meet this need all through the years since the first big party at Goodrich House on New Years Day (1912).

Miss Mary Blanchard, afterward Mrs. Robert B. Irwin, became a member of the staff of the Society in January 1913, and while her duties were primarily clerical, she was of the greatest assistance in the recreation program. During her first year she founded the Optimist Club of young blind women, its program becoming a pattern for several clubs organized later. The Optimist group is today, 1943, a very valuable adjunct of the Society and through the year has had a marked influence on the lives of its members. Miss Almeda Adams, blind music teacher and leader of chorus work, discovered many good voices among the club members, and weekly practice produced surprising results. Dancing was more fun than anything else, and the University Club supplied partners for several years. Miss Eleanor T. Flinn, teacher of dancing, was an early and enthusiastic backer of the Optimist Club and many a shy girl, awkward in her blindness, found herself developing a sense of freedom which she had never before known, as she mingled with the dancers on the floor. March 10, 1916, was an important date on the club's calendar, for in the auditorium of the Y.M.C.A. was given the never-to-be-forgotten "Rose of Savoy." This was a cantata put on by fifteen members of the Optimist Club and was a marked success, Miss Adams being responsible for the music, and Miss Blanchard for the dramatic coaching and the arrangements. Such performances are important in the lives of the players, as they gain assurance and prestige, while the volunteers become better acquainted with the blind people through their work of costuming, stage setting, etc. The audience learns of the ability of handicapped people, and this carried over into employment and other lines.

The Optimist Club continued to give annual plays, while the Men's Glee Club, founded by Jacob Bausch, gave concerts and a very successful minstrel show. Mr. Bausch also organized an orchestra among the blind men, so music, vocal and instru-

mental was always a part of the programs given gratis to institutions, or for a modest charge, to many audiences.

With the entry of the United States into the war in 1917, the more skilled of the blind women formed a club to meet at Goodrich House one afternoon a week to do needed work for the Red Cross. They did knitting, strung safety pins, tied shoe strings for the comfort kits, and hemmed handkerchiefs. The Social Service Committee was gratified at their patriotic efforts and arranged for speakers and readers in order that the blind women might have some food for thought.

In 1913 a club was organized for the blind people at the Warrensville Infirmary where they were leading lives barren of interest. Members of the Social Service Committee went out twice a month, the trip involving the use of the Chagrin Falls trolley and a short line running direct to the Infirmary grounds. Twenty-one meetings were held during the first year, the devoted women making the trip through the most severe weather. Through the efforts of the Society a good piano was donated for the assembly room and then music, especially singing, was part of every program. The Christmas meeting was expanded into a real party with a special program, and, best of all, good refreshments, a welcome change to the inmates of any institution at that time.

A club for the older unemployed blind men living in the vicinity of the Newburgh Library was organized in 1913, to the great satisfaction of its members, several of whom had worked together in the Newburgh mills. After meeting in this location for several years the club moved to the Old Stone Church in order that men from all parts of the city might attend. It is interesting to note that, in those days with no automobiles, members of their families were glad to make the effort to take the men to their club meetings. This club later became the Men's Reading Club of Goodrich House days and is now, 1943, very active as the Monday Forum of Grasselli House. Throughout the years women from the Social Service Committee have taken charge, providing programs, motor service, and frequently refreshments as well. The fine old men have passed away, from

time to time, others taking their places, but all having felt that the club met a great need in their later years. The volunteers have always found that their own lives were the richer for the experience.

DAY SCHOOL CLASSES

The movement to educate blind children in the public schools, which had been started in Cleveland by the Society in 1909, had eight pupils in the beginning and had increased, by 1913, to forty-four boys and girls who were attending school in four centers in different parts of the city. Special instructions, such as in music and manual training, was carried, as before mentioned, by the Society for the Blind until, as a result of Mr. Irwin's efforts, a bill providing State support was passed by the Ohio Legislature in January 1913. This provided for a per capita allowance of \$200 a year and this amount, together with the \$28 per capita expenditure for the education of normal children, permitted the addition to the staff of special teachers and the extension of the school-week up to Saturday noon. Older boys wishing to make piano tuning their vocation, had instruction at a Tuning School, the director of which was Jacob Bausch who had been for years teacher of tuning and band instruments at Overbrook School for the Blind in Philadelphia. This school was also available for the further training of a few adult tuners whose preparation had been inadequate.

By 1916 the first Visiting Teacher was added to the staff, her responsibility being to study the family situations, thus insuring the full cooperation of the home and the school. In 1919 this service was extended to blind children under school age, having previously been carried on by visitors from the Cleveland Society for the Blind. This proved of great value in educating parents in their task of preparing their children for school life. Cleveland is outstanding in the fact that since this date, it has had continuous training for its pre-school children.

A training cottage was opened as part of the Department for the Blind, and a group of ten or twelve children lived there through the week for a period of one year, boys and girls alter-

nating each year. The older girls were taught practical house-keeping and all were given instruction which many of them lacked at home—caring for their own needs, eating properly, etc. All the children went out to their school classes each day and spent week-ends with their own families. Each child learned to be helpful with the work at the cottage, and consideration for other.

Summer school classes for the blind boys and girls were conducted, and nature study, swimming, and even rowing, were taught. Many bird notes were learned and, in short, the great out-of-doors so familiar to seeing children, was opened to the blind. Through the courtesy of Ringling Brothers, all the children from the department were taken to see the animals on a Sunday afternoon when the public was not admitted. The tamer animals were examined by eager little hands, and rides on a small elephant furnished thrills still remembered.

THE HOWE PUBLISHING SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

In the fall of 1909, through the efforts of Robert B. Irwin and some of his friends, there was organized the Samuel Gridley Howe Club which later became the Howe Publishing Society for the Blind. This group started as a forum to which a few congenial blind men came to listen to reading and enter into discussions on current topics. It was named in honor of one of the founders of work for the blind in the United States. All members of the club lamented the scarcity of books in raised type as few Braille books, except those published for school use, were available. The appropriations of the various libraries were so limited that they could not undertake the purchase of many such books. In the conviction that there were seeing book lovers in Cleveland who would be glad to meet the cost of embossing a few books in Braille, the Howe Publishing Society made an appeal to the public for funds. A modest printing shop equipped with a stereotyping machine and press was set up in the basement of the Old Court House where space was provided by the county,

rent free, for many years. The first stereotyper was Miss Gertrude Leininger, and when she resigned to give her full time to teaching music to blind children in the public schools, she was succeeded by Mrs. Josephine Enever. Sighted volunteers read the text to Mrs. Enever and also, in time, bound the books and magazines when the pages were completed. A Juvenile magazine was issued monthly and sent to all the blind children in the city. Its talented editor was Miss Annie Cutter of the Juvenile Department of the Public Library, and she made a careful study of the special needs and tastes of her little blind readers.

The activities of the Howe Publishing Society were carried on for about seventeen years and a great many books were added to the collection in the Public Library. Much of the progress of the organization was due to the interest and support of Harold T. Clark who was not only the moving spirit, but could always find funds for emergent needs and for the expansion of the work. His interest continued through the life of the organization. With the development of the two-side printing, in which both sides of the paper are utilized, the smaller publishing companies in the country were forced to discontinue their efforts as much more complicated and expensive machinery became necessary.

THE CLEVELAND SOCIETY AND THE OHIO COM- MISSION FOR THE BLIND

The Ohio Commission, promoted by the Cleveland Society in 1908 and with an initial budget of \$5,000, by June 1911 had an appropriation of \$58,000 for the succeeding eighteen months. Charles F. F. Campbell was called from Pittsburgh to direct the Ohio program, and Miss Marion Campbell became his assistant — her responsibility being to develop a Home Workers' Guild. This plan had been successful in different parts of the country; blind women working in their homes were supplied with materials and sewing machines, when needed, and were taught to make salable articles. They were paid the difference between the cost of the materials and the selling price, the overhead being carried by the Commission. A large number of women were

found who welcomed this opportunity of earning at least part of their living, and their instructors, also capable blind women, were furnished with a means of livelihood. Securing a market for the merchandise was a problem which was largely solved by the cooperation of department stores in several Ohio cities where permanent selling space was donated. The Higbee Company in June 1912 became one of the first stores to make this generous contribution, and their department for the blind was patronized by Cleveland women for many years. For four years the Society paid half of the salary of the clerk, and sales were stimulated by enlisting the cooperation of various clubs and churches, each being responsible for sales during one week of each year. As the volume of goods to be sold increased, additional sales were needed and the Society assisted the Commission by conducting one or two-day sales in many of the smaller cities of northern Ohio. Here again, the tireless members of the Social Service Committee arranged all the details and personally conducted the sales.

Teachers of the adult blind reached all parts of the state, making a study of each person visited and bringing fresh interest to many blind in remote communities. The teacher who served Cleveland and several nearby counties was Miss Helen Lapp, a graduate of the Ohio School for the Blind and a young woman of winning personality and marked ability as a teacher. She was a Cleveland resident.

The Commission, in return, through its Prevention of Blindness Department, relieved the Society of the Investigation and prosecution of the midwives—which had been one of the Society's major efforts during 1910 and 1911.

PUBLICITY

Constant effort was made to acquaint the people of Cleveland with the work of the Society and the cooperating agencies for the blind. Perhaps the most pretentious of these efforts was the "Blind Workers' Village" which was opened in a large vacant store next to the Kinney & Levan Company on Euclid Avenue.

No admission was charged and nothing was offered for sale, but the exhibition was visited by many thousands of people during the two weeks it was open. The crowds watched pianos being tuned, brooms and baskets made, linens and rugs woven. They visited a classroom of blind children doing their regular school work, and also a department of the Public Library where raised-type books, writing devices, magazines for the blind, and maps with raised lines were shown. They watched contests, as in games of checkers, saw blind teachers patiently giving instruction to recently blinded men and women, and they studied the intricacies of a stereotyping machine making plates from which Braille sheets were printed and bound into books. This entire project was planned and executed by members of the Social Service Committee and its effect on the public was evident for several years. Few of the committee members had cars at the time and the many blind people participating in the exhibition had to be brought from their homes and taken back, each day, and their lunches arranged for. The committee members were at work each day explaining the various exhibits to the public and, on the whole, it was an undertaking requiring a great deal of hard work but considered very worth while.

Industrial and other expositions were willing to donate space where the products of blind workers were shown, and folders explaining the aims of the Society were distributed. Many church bazaars gave the same privilege. During a four-year period over one hundred talks before Cleveland groups were made by the Executive Secretary, a blind musician often being introduced in the program and, in many instances, sales were also made. The scrap-books of the time reveal an astonishing amount of newspaper space devoted to the happenings at Goodrich House, stories of the achievements of blind individuals, and appeals for cooperation from the public.

EXTENSION

In 1913 one of the most active members of the Social Service Committee asked the Executive Secretary to pay a two-day

visit to a friend living in Youngstown. Their hostess invited a select group to her home to learn what they might do for the blind of their city. Great interest was shown and a committee, with officers and sub-committees, was formed. Through the following seven years many visits were made to Youngstown to counsel with the committee members as to their program and problems. They made a census of all the blind of the city, arranged for recreation, secured employment, and were of real help in the case work needed. They operated without a budget, funds being provided by the committee members and their interested friends. The Ohio Commission was using space in one of the department stores at which to sell blind-made products, and the women of the Youngstown Committee were of great assistance in this effort. By 1920 a Society was organized supported in part by the Community Fund and having as the first Executive Secretary, Joseph F. Clunk, a young blind man who had been on the staff of the Cleveland Society. The Youngstown Society has continued its activities and usefulness up to the present time, though now consolidated with the work for the Crippled and Disabled.

The same procedure was followed in Toledo and Akron, the Society in the former city being now among the leading organizations in the state. Prominent Akron people were anxious to establish similar work and met the cost of a survey to ascertain all the facts about their blind citizens, possibilities for employment, etc. In time a Society was formed, copying its constitution from that of Cleveland. A trained social worker was engaged as the first executive and the financing was divided between the Community Fund and the Lions Club. The life of this well-conceived organization was just one year, as a group of blind people opposed it at every point, insisting that only blind individuals should have any part in its management. The Lions Club became discouraged and withdrew its support, and the Community Fund felt that the usefulness of such a movement, under the circumstances, was doubtful.

Through the years 1913 - 1919, the Executive Secretary of the Cleveland Society devoted a good deal of time to movements

in aid of other communities. A visit to Minneapolis in 1913 resulted in the formation of a Society for the Blind, its chosen executive spending a week in Cleveland studying the local work. This Society is active today. During 1917 visits to consult about the work were made to New York and Boston, while in Detroit, at the request of the Community Union, a week's survey was made and recommendations submitted.

OFFICERS AND STAFF

The presidents of the Society for the period were Miss Prudence Sherwin, Herbert W. Strong, John MacGregor, and George B. Kennerdell. They were in close touch with all phases of the work of the Society, happy in its progress, and interested in the successes of individual blind people.

The staff from 1911 to 1913 had consisted of the Executive Secretary, a man who was called the Industrial Agent and who gave a few hours a day to the operation of the Broom Shop, and a young clerk-typist. Her place was filled in January 1913 by Miss Mary Blanchard, and the position of Industrial Agent was abolished. Miss Blanchard was married to Robert B. Irwin in 1917, having spent the preceding year as Visiting Teacher in his department. In December 1913 Mrs. Sarah Van Duzer joined the staff to remain until her death in 1920. She and Miss Blanchard were much beloved by the blind people and were of the greatest assistance during the crowded years of their connection with the Society. Mrs. Van Duzer came to the Society to supervise the weaving, and in the minutes of June 7, 1915, is recorded this statement—"In Mrs. Van Duzer we have a woman who is instantly responsive to every demand made upon her. From her weaving department there were sent out in the year just ended 1,655 yards of rugs, with practically no complaints from customers or weavers. She also spends several afternoons each week in calling on blind people in their homes, and her approach is tactful, her sincerity evident to all."

The attitude of the five to six hundred blind of the city toward the movement in their behalf was increasingly cordial.

Staunch friends and supporters developed among blind people who were in no financial need, but whose families had had little knowledge of all the special opportunities available. The goal set by the Society was to personally know every blind person and his family, and to discover all possible ways in which service could be given.

CHANGE OF LOCATION

In 1906, when quarters in Goodrich House were first made available to the Society, the Settlement had already moved its activities to the vicinity of St. Clair Avenue and East 31st Street. The beautiful building was occupied by agencies serving the public in some capacity, as the Music School Settlement, the Consumers League, and the Home Gardening Association. Minutes of the Society show that as early as 1912 there was discussion as to the need for other quarters, as the building was for sale. This topic recurred frequently and in 1916 it was decided to make a search for some place in the vicinity of Prospect Avenue and East 55th Street. A few blocks to the south stood the residence of Caesar A. Grasselli which had been built by him in 1882 and continuously occupied by the family. Miss Emilie Jungermann, an intimate friend of the family and one of the trustees of the Society, had shared her enthusiasm for the work with all the members of the Grasselli family who had been generous contributors to the Society from its inception. When their new home was in process of construction she discussed with Mr. Grasselli the predicament of the Society as to future quarters, and this led to a request by him for a conference with Miss Sherwin and Mrs. Palmer. This took place at his home on May 13, 1918, and after taking them over the house he inquired whether it might be suitable for a headquarters for the Society, saying that he would be willing to present the property to the organization. The trustees were delighted with the prospect of a permanent location for all the activities and, in time, the transfer of the property was made. Mr. Grasselli had the house redecorated and left a good deal of needed equipment. The

moving occupied some time and was made during the last weeks of 1918. It marked the end of a period of experimentation and struggle, and the beginning of greater opportunities for all the blind of Cleveland.

GRASSELLI HOUSE—1919 - 1928

“My blindness is my sight.
The shadows that I feared so long
Are full of life and light.”

Alice Cary (Blind)

THE YEAR 1919 opened on a gay note as everyone was excited over the new home for the Society. No one was happier than Mr. Grasselli who paid frequent visits to the house to watch the transformation of his old home into an institution. He was interested in even the smallest problems, and as unexpected needs arose he was generosity itself.

Members of the Social Service Committee were tireless in their efforts to create an atmosphere of warm friendliness. The living room, the south room on the front of the house, was furnished with comfortable chairs and its open fireplace was in constant use in cold weather when clubs or other gatherings of blind people were held. The two connecting rooms on the north side were reserved for dancing and meetings, folding chairs being provided. Funds for a really good piano poured in and it was placed in the rear of the front hall. The large room at the head of the stairs was used as a club room, and the small room on the north side of the house was fitted up as a rest room for the staff. The large room next in front of it was used for several years for the weaving and other industries of blind women, while the three front rooms were used as offices.

Miss Sherwin was chairman of a House Committee of six members and she went from room to room, notebook in hand, perhaps her longest list being for the kitchen where all the essentials for serving meals to large groups had to be provided.

Grasselli House became one of the few settlements for the blind in the country, with facilities for work and play and for the cementing of friendships which were of lasting duration.

By New Years Day, 1919, a reception for all the blind was held. It was just seven years since the big “party” held in the gymnasium of Goodrich House, and by clubs and other activities, scores of blind people who had led lives of comparative

isolation had become active and interested. All were told that Grasselli House was to be their second home, and they were eager to inspect the rooms and especially to shake hands with Mr. Grasselli who had sent many beautiful flowers for the occasion. From that day the tempo of the work increased and a closer relationship developed between the staff, the volunteers, and the blind people. The possession of such a fine headquarters increased the standing of the organization in the community and among other social agencies. This was further stimulated by two receptions held Saturday evening, January 18, and Sunday afternoon, January 19. Invitations were sent to social workers, contributors, board members, and all the volunteers whose work, through the years, had been of inestimable help. Both receptions were largely attended, members of the Social Service Committee acting as hostesses.

Starting Sunday afternoon, February 2, 1919, and for the fifteen Sundays following, Grasselli House was open from two until six o'clock with entertainment and refreshments furnished. This was the beginning of the Open House occasions which were to continue for the next twenty years, although held once a month instead of weekly.

The Optimist Club members met at Grasselli House for supper and their varied activities every Friday evening, with dances once a month.

The club of the younger blind men met every Tuesday night, with glee club and orchestra practice following supper. The club for older men met every other Monday afternoon, with transportation and programs furnished by the volunteers. Members of the Social Service Committee were always on hand to read aloud, to dance, to serve suppers, to act as guides, and to give freely of their good cheer. It was a busy spring with a "Mystery Party" given for the older blind women of the West Side and another party for the "Get Together Club" at the Infirmary at Warrensville.

Meantime, the trustees were faced with sterner problems than those of recreation. After the removal of the Grasselli family the neighborhood had considered the large grounds as a

public playground and a fence of some kind was much needed. Sketches of a three-foot brick wall surrounded by a wooden fence of good design were considered and, in time, materials were donated and the sum of \$700 raised for the labor. The completed wall added greatly to the appearance, as well as the privacy, of Grasselli House. After many years the constant repairs needed on the wooden fence were such that it was removed, the brick wall still standing.

From the first, the occupation of the garage as a Broom Shop was felt to be temporary, as the space was inadequate for the growing business. During 1918 broom sales had amounted to \$35,000, with steady employment furnished to fourteen blind men—their average wage being \$15 a week.

On June 14, 1920, a meeting of the trustees was held to consider the building of a new shop which all the men agreed was much needed. Carl N. Osborne was asked to form a committee to raise \$35,000 for a building to contain approximately 10,000 square feet, and on November 23, 1920, he reported that \$32,000 of the needed amount was already pledged. The shop operating fund of \$3,250, which had been managed since 1914 by members of a Foundation for the Blind set up for the purpose had been of great assistance and was again intact; it was added to the building fund with the consent of the donors. With the income from investments made through the years, it amounted to \$3,522.32.

The contract was let to John Gill & Sons on August 25, 1921, the agreed price for the building being \$32,500. The Broom Shop was closed, the men being paid for four and one-half days each week that they were out of work. The garage was moved to its new location on the grounds and served as a temporary shop while the new building was under construction. In 1921 the Broom Shop had been in operation for eleven years and always in unsuitable quarters. The new shop was planned with the utmost care and was equipped with power machinery. The provided space was 40 x 80 feet, two stories with a half-basement. As soon as the moving had been accomplished, the old garage

was raised onto a three-foot brick foundation, the Gill Company doing this work as well as making an additional driveway.

By the terms of the will of Mrs. H. A. Sherwin, the sum of \$1,000 had been left to the Society and, with the approval of the Sherwin family, this was used for completing the inside of the recreation hall. Mrs. George Marty of the Social Service Committee was chairman of the committee on decorations, and a charming effect was achieved with woodwork of black, walls of lovely blue, and curtains and lamp shades a dusty pink. Each of the ecru window shades was decorated with a picture from Mother Goose. A fine dance floor was laid, and a drinking fountain and good piano were donated.

On December 14, 1921, both broom shop and recreation hall were formally dedicated. Guests were first taken through the shop where all the wheels were turning—with the blind men proudly showing their new quarters and equipment. Then the hall was crowded and was much admired, many flowers sent by Mr. Grasselli adding to the festive appearance. The president, Miss Sherwin, presided, and Mr. Grasselli made a little speech in his happiest vein. Mr. K. F. Gill, builder of the shop and recreation hall, was warmly welcomed. The glee clubs of blind men and women gave several selections, and the executive secretary, in a brief talk, expressed the feeling of the blind people and the volunteers that the building should be named Van Duzer honoring the memory of Mrs. Sarah Van Duzer. A suitable tablet had been prepared and placed by Mr. Horace Potter whose own father had been blind. Guests were served with refreshments in Grasselli House dining room and the evening was one of the happiest occasions in the history of the Society.

Van Duzer Hall was in constant use for the following sixteen years. It was occasionally rented, for a nominal fee, to other social agencies. It was used for conventions of the blind; for annual meetings; for summer picnics; for all the parties and dances; for recitals and concerts, and for rummage sales to raise funds for camp. It was torn down in 1937 to make additional space for the broom shop, and its passing occasioned real sorrow

as well as decided limitation of activities greatly needed in the Society's program of rehabilitation.

As the two connecting rooms on the first floor of Grasselli House were no longer needed for dancing, they were furnished as additional living rooms, this being made possible by a gift of \$900 made by one of the trustees, Mr. H. G. Dalton, for the purpose.

EMPLOYMENT

Up to the end of 1919 all outside placement work had been handled by the Executive Secretary, a beginning in this work having been made in 1913. At the annual meeting, October 21, 1919, she reported that 49 blind people were employed in Cleveland factories, 76 in all having been so placed. During the labor shortage in the war years, handicapped people, if competent, were accepted in a number of Cleveland plants.

In April, 1919, a young blind man named Joseph F. Clunk was reported to the Society, and contact with him has been continuous ever since. Born in a small Ohio city, he lost the sight of one eye when he was fifteen years of age. He continued through high school and, on graduation, came to Cleveland determined to work his way through Western Reserve University and later to go to Law School. Sight in the one eye was failing, however, and at the end of his Sophomore year his oculist told him that he could never again use his vision for close work. He took up outside selling, at which he was quite successful until a severe attack of influenza sent him into Lakeside Hospital, from which he emerged totally blind. He continued selling, representing the Knapp Extract Company. He had not known of the local Society for the Blind, but soon developed a deep interest in its program, joining the Men's Glee Club and asking for a list of blind men living in his section of the city. He made many calls, discovering blind individuals not known to the Society and inspiring them to take up Braille which he had mastered in a few lessons. With his other gifts, he was a clever mechanic and made many suggestions regarding factory work. In December, 1919, when he had been known to the Society for six months, he was offered a

temporary place on the staff, as he had decided to devote his life to work for the blind. He was highly successful in placement work in the next few months, demonstrating in 30 factories and finding 67 additional processes which could be performed by the sense of touch. In a few months the number of blind in Cleveland shops had increased to 102. In August 1920, Mr. Clunk assumed his duties as the first Executive Secretary of the Youngstown Society for the Blind.

He is today a leading figure in work for the blind in the United States and Canada.

The depression of 1921, added to the need for work for the returned soldiers, creating a situation in which handicapped labor was largely discarded by the factories. In spite of every effort, the number of blind employed in outside industry declined, throwing a greater load on the so-called "sheltered workshops." Overstock of broom became common, and the working days had to be somewhat reduced. Some of the blind men did outside selling and a competition was started, with prizes presented by Herbert W. Strong. In May, 1922, the shop was closed for two weeks, the men being paid two-thirds of their average wage. However, total sales in 1923 amounted to \$58,628, and such customers as the New York Central Railroad were added to the list.

Vigorous search for additional employment was made both by the staff and volunteers. In 1922 the first refreshment stand was opened in the Morgan Lithograph Company, and with this as an example, several additional openings were secured. Five girls with adequate training in spite of their total blindness, were placed as dictaphone operators in banks and manufacturing plants. The orchestra, with its paid leader, was expanded and secured many engagements. The sixteen piano tuners were assisted by annual appeals to churches, clubs, studios, and dance halls, as well as by paid advertisements. Many firms were contacted for patronage for the chair seating department now located in Grasselli House, and the "double caning" work for the type of chairs used in Sunday schools, clubs, colleges, and other meeting places, was publicized.

In 1924 forty blind women of Cleveland were working in their homes on materials supplied by the Ohio Commission for the Blind and under the direction of their Home Teaching staff. In addition, the following articles were being made by men and women in their homes, and under the direct supervision of the Society: hearth brushes, baskets, netted fringe, small hammocks, cord necklaces; while one woman, very nearly blind, was earning a fair amount selling orange marmalade of her own making.

For several years Mrs. H. P. Mansfield devoted a great deal of time to the problem of employment for blind people. At her own expense, she tried the experiment of making and recovering comforters. This was widely publicized and good patronage secured. It was later established at Grasselli House and contracts such as that with the Fuller Cleaning Company were secured. Mrs. Mansfield also started a "Paint Shop" for the repairing and refinishing of furniture. This was later moved to quarters controlled by the Society and did a fluctuating business for several years. During the years 1925 to 1927 it was almost impossible to make outside placements of blind people, and so the Paint Shop was continued although work was furnished to only four or five men. The salary of the sighted superintendent and incidental expenses made the cost out of proportion to the wages earned, and the shop was closed at the end of 1927. For various reasons the comfort business also declined and had to be given up. From 1922 to 1927 Mrs. Mansfield secured openings for nine refreshment stands. She served on the Social Service Committee and the Executive Board, and showed great interest not only in the management of the Society but also in the individual problems of many blind people. The beautiful blue Chinese rug on the living room floor at Grasselli House is a lasting reminder of the interest of Mr. and Mrs. Mansfield.

The broom business continued to be difficult throughout 1927. During one month 922 dozen brooms were made, with only 353 dozen sold, and the inventory of finished brooms at the end of that month amounted to 1,291 dozen. Prison-made brooms were flooding the market, although the Hawes-Cooper bill before Congress was designed to limit such sales — this bill later became

a law. Equipment added to the broom shop during this period were the electric elevator which was installed at a cost of \$2,500, and a much-needed incinerator which cost \$383.

STAFF CHANGES

The first superintendent of the broom shop was Frank Burlingame, a fine totally blind man of middle age. On account of failing health he was made the assistant to a sighted superintendent and later resigned. Several men unsuited to the position were tried until August 1920 when the present superintendent, Thomas DeChant, was secured. He had attended the Ohio School for the Blind where he specialized in broom and basket making and so was eminently fitted for the position in Cleveland. He had a small amount of useful vision which has not declined through the years. His deep interest, patience, and skill have served to stabilize this department, and his fine Christian character has made him an example to all who have worked with him and under him.

The same year, 1920, Mrs. Sarah Van Duzer passed away and her loss was a severe one as she had developed into a versatile worker, giving her time and energy without stint. In April, 1922, Mabel J. Winsworth joined the small staff and her preparation and experience had fitted her for all the diversified demands made upon her. Her training had been in case work and home economics, and she was endowed with a happy disposition and robust health. Much later she was to become the Executive Secretary of the Society.

The following year, 1923, a young girl, Helen Reznik, came into the office as stenographer, her first position, and speedily made herself a place in the affections of the blind people, the staff, and the volunteers.

Grace Emerson came to the Society in March 1924 as Home Teacher for blind men and women. No one on the staff has ever cared more deeply for the blind nor been happier in her connection with them. Her position with an organization for the blind in Brooklyn, New York, had given her very valuable ex-

perience and the Society was most fortunate to obtain her services.

This quartette of workers is still with the organization in 1943, and it is impossible to estimate their value to the movement. Other staff members came and went, most of them making a real contribution, while a few were unsuited to social work with its need for understanding and sympathy.

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES FOR SOCIAL SERVICE

Up to 1922 the Social Service Committee, formed at the organization of the Society, had been the only group of volunteers whose efforts were devoted to the study and solution of the personal problems of the blind. Working under the direction of the Executive Secretary, a remarkable esprit de corps developed, the results of which were felt in every activity of the organization. Up to 1943 this committee has had over 140 members, almost without exception women with unusual qualifications for the work. Only one of the original committee is still interested, although not now active. Miss Emilie Jungermann's name appears on the first little folder issued by the Society, and her contribution all through the years is beyond estimate. As an early Chairman of the Social Service Committee; as a member, for many years, of the Executive Board, and as a trustee, her judgment, tireless effort, and constant generosity have set a pattern for all the volunteers. Returns to the women of the committee were continuous and deeply appreciated by them. The friendship of many fine blind people and the inspiration gained from their courage, the sense of achievement over some accomplished result—all contributed to their satisfaction.

With the move into Grasselli House the Society expanded in every way and in 1922 Mrs. K. J. Bishop, a Lakewood member of the Social Service Committee, decided that the time was ripe for the formation of a separate committee to serve the interests of the blind in that section. Mrs. Bishop was the chairman of the new committee and their first project was the formation of a club for older blind people similar to the one which met bi-

monthly at Grasselli House. In time the women of the committee came to know all the blind in Lakewood and through the years have shared their joys and sorrows, and helped them toward their goal of normal living.

Late in 1923 a group of colored women formed a committee to assist the colored blind of the city. They were all members of the missionary societies of a number of colored churches of several denominations and they realized that in assisting the blind they were doing real missionary work which was greatly needed. Their meetings were held in the offices of the Negro Welfare Association, whose Director, Wm. H. Connors, took a deep and lasting interest in the project. A member of the staff of the Society always met with the group to furnish information as wanted and, possibly, inspiration as needed. Social affairs were held in the various churches, summer picnics arranged, and much clothing solicited and distributed. Each member of the committee had her assignment of blind people on whom to call. Development of this work will be described in a later section of this report.

Mrs. Gus Bamberger was for years a trustee of the Western Pennsylvania Association for the Blind in Pittsburgh and one of their most active workers. On her removal to Cleveland, she called at the office of the Society and suggested the formation of a committee to work with and for the Jewish blind of the city. The first meeting was held at her home in December 1923, and results from that small beginning were of great importance to the Society. Case work was the primary interest of the committee members, with distribution of blind-made merchandise a close second. Products of Cleveland homeworkers were at that time sent to the Ohio Commission in Columbus and were there, with similar articles from all over the state, inspected and then shipped to five cities where permanent sales counters were maintained. Outlets in addition to those in the five stores were urgently needed and in May 1922 a small group of Jewish women had conducted a sale in the Chrystal Market where the receipts amounted to \$266. Under Mrs. Bamberger's leadership, the new committee became very active, assisting their blind "clients"

in every way. They also stimulated the sales at the Higbee counter and took practical charge of the annual sales which that firm generously permitted to be held on the first floor. As a result of all the efforts total sales in Cleveland far exceeded those in the four other cities of Ohio and a larger income was thus assured to the blind workers.

On February 11, 1924, the West Side Committee was formed, with Mrs. Frank Midnight as chairman and with practically the same objectives as the other four groups. Mrs. Midnight had been a most effective volunteer for many years and drawing on her experience, directed the personal service and recreation with great spirit and skill. She opened her large home many times for social affairs at which there was always much merriment. The committee members were more than advisors of the blind; they did much actual work in the homes where there was sickness or other need. This committee was active until it was merged with the Lakewood Committee in 1939 and the present Westlake Committee was organized.

RECREATION

"If I have to be blind, I certainly am glad that I live in Cleveland," was the exclamation of a blind woman at the close of an exceptionally happy party in Van Duzer Hall. Miss Eleanor Flinn had been present to teach a new dance, and a grand march to stirring music had put every person, dancers and spectators, onto the floor. Active participation in all the recreations of sighted people was a goal set by many blind people for themselves, and swimming and rowing, when possible, were popular in summer. Picnics with races, a tug-of-war, and jumping contests were eagerly anticipated and all this suggested a camp for the blind similar to several in the east. Through the friendship of Mrs. Mansfield with the Van Sweringen brothers, a location on the corner of S.O.M. Center and Jackson Roads was loaned to the Society. The house had wide porches and sleeping accommodations for a dozen blind guests. Funds for operating the camp were raised in several ways.

Mrs. K. F. Gill opened her house, gardens, and pool for a "Garden Vaudeville" which was held all afternoon and evening of a perfect June day. Scattered through the house and grounds were blind people at their regular work; one man seating chairs, another operating a loom, a basket maker, and in the house one of the pianos undergoing continual tuning and repairs. Professional swimmers and divers gave exhibitions in the pool, while music was furnished by blind musicians. The pink roses surrounding the pool were reflected in its blue water and the scene day and evening, was a gay one. Through the generosity of Mrs. Mansfield a film of the occasion was made and presented to the Society, good use of it having been made all through the years. An entrance fee of \$1 was charged and refreshments were sold on the terrace; in all, the sum of \$2,000 was raised for the camp.

The Optimist Club donated the proceeds of its annual play to the camp fund, and all of the volunteers assisted in assembling the needed furnishings. The camp was opened on July 12, 1927, and closed after Labor Day. It was a strenuous summer for the volunteers and a happy one for the blind people whose week at camp gave them a lift out of monotony, often cramped surroundings, and summer days unrelieved by any gayety. The place was unsuited for such a purpose, but deep gratitude was expressed to Mrs. Mansfield and the Messrs. Van Swearingen, as the experiment was a marked success and pointed the way to a permanent camp.

Edward T. Flinn made a long-continued contribution to the recreational program of the Society. In the spring of 1923 he arranged a combined musical and dance at Wade park Manor and this was eagerly anticipated each year. Many blind persons, unable to come by street car, were brought in cars of volunteers and of the residents of the Manor. A fine program was rendered especially designed for those who did not dance and all this talent was donated, as were the services of the dance orchestra. The Manor provided refreshments. Mr. George Schneider, a long-time manager of the Manor, has had the welfare of the blind much on his heart for many years, and is today, 1943, a

member of the Society. Up to his death Mr. Flinn rarely missed a dance of the Society and was able to teach dancing to a great many blind men and women, to their lasting pleasure.

Distribution of Symphony, Singers Club, and Grand Opera tickets was continued each year, every effort being made to extend these privileges to people newly-blinded.

What of the attitude of the blind people? Were they always on the receiving end? The clubs of blind people asked for names of indigent blind families at Christmas and Thanksgiving, and many baskets of food and other gifts were donated. The glee clubs gave their services at such places as the City Hospital and the Infirmary at Warrensville. Flowers were sent to the sick blind, donations made to the Red Cross, and a sizable contribution was made to the Symphony Orchestra Association in recognition of the many concerts enjoyed.

CONSERVATION OF VISION

Following satisfactory results from a "Save Your Sight Day" in St. Louis, the Cleveland Society made plans for a similar effort. The general committee consisted of Herbert W. Strong, President, and Mrs. Palmer, Executive Secretary of the Society, with C. A. Grasselli, Miss Prudence Sherwin, Mrs. Gus Bamberger, and Dr. W. E. Bruner. The National Society for the Prevention of Blindness agreed to send posters and other printed matter, and the cooperation of the hospitals and leading oculists was guaranteed. The widest publicity was given to the opportunity for free testing of sight and the date set was January 15, 1925, clinics being held in sixteen of the largest hospitals of the city. The Society assigned to each hospital as many volunteers as were requested, and blanks to be executed were supplied. No treatments were given but each patient was informed as to his eye condition. Examinations totaling 1,835 were made with over 1,200 persons needing refraction only, the balance being in need of treatment. Cards with name and addresses of 210 persons who could not wait for examination were turned in and later followed up. Over 300 other persons were turned away

without their names being secured. The committee sent letters to the 635 persons whose eyes needed treatment, advising them to get in touch with a reputable oculist, or, in case they were unable to pay, to attend one of the free eye clinics, addresses of which were given. One of the results of this effort was that quite a number of new names were added to the Society's register, the persons reporting having been ignorant of an organization devoted to their interests.

In March 1928 a "Sight Conservation Week" was arranged, the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness again co-operating. A sale of blind-made articles was held at the Higbee Company during the same week and the two efforts were mutually helpful, publicity carrying advertising for both. Displays on the Cleveland Trust Company corner and in the lobby of the Union Trust Company attracted great attention. Regular eye clinics were crowded by persons needing attention, and in one instance periods for examination were permanently extended to six instead of three days a week. The sale of blind-made merchandise proved to be 59 per cent greater than that of the preceding year.

EXTENSION

The Cleveland work for the blind was becoming well known over the country and the Society was asked to be host to the 1925 convention of the American Association of Workers for the Blind. These meetings were held every two years, and locations were selected to suit the convenience of those wishing to attend. Thus the 1917 meeting was held in Portland, Maine; that in 1919 in Toronto, and in 1921 in Vinton, Iowa. Accommodations had usually been found in residential schools, and Cleveland made an effort to secure the Western Reserve University campus for lodgings and meetings. This was impossible on account of summer school, but the buildings of Hudson Academy were available and provided a quiet, beautiful place for meetings of such a character. The convention opened on Monday evening, June 22, 1925, with the president, Robert B. Irwin, presiding. The gathering was a notable one, with leaders in the work from

all parts of the country participating in the program. Staff and volunteers of the Society arranged for a reception, music being provided by the Criterion Orchestra of Grasselli House. A great deal of motor service was provided through the week and a fine dinner was served at Grasselli House for all the delegates who, by that time, were on their way home.

In the autumn of 1925 the Buffalo Association for the Blind requested advice from Cleveland on the revision of their program and suggested that the Executive Secretary spend some time in their city. Buffalo had organized its work for the blind about the same time as Cleveland, but had never had competent leadership although its volunteer service was beyond criticism. After several days spent in studying the situation, attending meetings and interviewing those interested in the work, a report and recommendations were made at a luncheon meeting held for the purpose. There were many things to commend, and some features which Cleveland desired, but did not as yet possess. Among the recommendations was one that the Association secure the services of an executive who had had the advantage of case work training. In a few months a Buffalo woman was appointed and the suggestion was made that the new worker come to Cleveland, see the clubs in action, and attend the Executive Committee and other meetings. This plan was carried out, the experience being mutually helpful and bringing much pleasure and lasting friendships.

During the spring of 1926 the American Foundation for the Blind requested the services of the Executive Secretary for the purpose of making a survey of work for the blind in the state of Missouri, particularly in St. Louis. The Community Council of St. Louis assumed all expenses and its Director, Elwood Street, was most interested and helpful. Mr. Irwin joined Mrs. Palmer for the first few days and a plan was mapped out. He went on to the west coast, returning to work on the final report. It was July and St. Louis at its hottest, but the experience was one of absorbing interest and the cooperation from all sources was most gratifying. Mrs. Palmer spent two days in Kansas City and submitted various suggestions to the Community Fund Council of

that city. So many changes in the St. Louis situation seemed advisable that the final report consisted largely of a detailed description of what work for the blind in a large city could and should be, rather than much discussion of their existing program.

THE AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND

The need for an organization to carry on research as to ways of improving and expanding services for the blind had been under discussion for several years. At the biennial conference of the American Association of Workers for the Blind held at Vinton, Iowa, in 1921, suggestions for the activities of such an organization included the maintenance of an Information Bureau, a Clearing House, and the promotion of much needed legislation.

During the following year leaders and supporters of work for the blind in all parts of the country made possible the creation of such an organization, and Robert B. Irwin of Cleveland was offered the position of Director of Research. After six years he became the Executive Director. The scope of the organization was described as follows: "The American Foundation for the Blind is a national agency, the purpose of which is to promote increasingly and uncompromisingly the interests of the blind throughout the country, in close cooperation with all local organizations."

Mr. Irwin was already a national figure, his outstanding success in public school work having placed him among the leaders in this movement. Braille classes in Cleveland having started in 1909 with eight pupils had an enrollment in 1922 of 46 children, five of whom were in high school. Enrollment in the Sight Saving Classes organized in Cleveland in 1913 had increased at a much greater rate. During the last ten years of Mr. Irwin's stay in Cleveland, he had inaugurated such classes in ten Ohio cities and given initial supervision in many of them.

The Howe Publishing Society which he had founded began the publication of books in large type for the use of the Sight Saving classes and, after a few years, this work was transferred

to the Clear Type Publishing Committee of New Jersey, of which he is the president.

As long as Mr. Irwin was in Cleveland he served on the Executive Board of The Cleveland Society for the Blind, sharing its problems, rejoicing in any successes, and his place at the counsel table can never be filled. He left for his greater opportunity the end of January 1923.

MERGER OF THE HOWE PUBLISHING SOCIETY WITH THE CLEVELAND SOCIETY

The Howe Publishing Society for the Blind, which was organized as the Samuel Gridley Howe Club in 1910, had continued to produce Braille books which were sold to the Cleveland Public Library and to collections elsewhere. It also issued a monthly magazine for the blind children of Cleveland. The modest budget was at first met by private contributions which, in time, were augmented by income from the Ellen Garretson Wade Fund and the John Huntington Fund. For several years the organization was also one of the agencies participating in the Community Fund. In time questions were raised as to the desirability of two societies for the blind in the same city, and a merger was suggested. On October 28, 1926, the Executive Board of the Cleveland Society voted approval with the understanding that there should be one management and one budget. The long-time supporters of the Howe Publishing Society sanctioned the merger, inasmuch as the development of two-side printing had rendered their equipment obsolete. With the press work discontinued, greater emphasis was put on the hand-transcribing which had been a part of their program for several years.

In the Spring of 1918 Harold T. Clark became interested in the possibility of hand-transcribing of Braille for special use in the re-education of men blinded in the World War. He cooperated with Mrs. Gertrude T. Rider, then in charge of the Reading Room for the Blind of the Library of Congress, who was also Directing Librarian of the Red Cross Institute for the Blind, and with Robert B. Irwin, who was then in charge of work for the blind in the Cleveland Public Schools, in working

out a plan which was printed here and circulated throughout the United States. This plan, "made in Cleveland," led to the creation of various groups of hand transcribers in different parts of the country, many of which still exist. In time this work was taken over by the Red Cross as part of its national program. Income of about \$300 a year from the Huntington Fund was transferred to the Red Cross, while that from the Wade Fund was discontinued.

During the last full year of its separate existence, the activities of the Howe Publishing Society were as follows:

Pages of Braille reading material embossed, 5,252.

Volumes sold at cost of printing and binding, 373.

Monthly magazine sent free to blind children of Cleveland.

In cooperation with American Red Cross, instruction given to class of 16 volunteer transcribers.

Supervision of work of 22 certified volunteer transcribers who produced 7,584 pages, 18 books, containing 96 volumes for the Library for the Blind in Cleveland.

THE PASSING OF C. A. GRASSELLI

On July 28, 1927, The Cleveland Society for the Blind and the entire community sustained a severe loss in the death of Caesar A. Grasselli. He came to Cleveland as a young man, and his long life had been principally devoted to the building of one of the great industries of the country. His nature was a rare blend of child-like faith in the goodness of his fellow-men, exceptional sagacity in business, and deep religious feeling. His right and left hands held no communication, and his generosity, not only to causes but to individuals, was unceasing. His connection with the Society brought far greater opportunities to the blind and also furnished them with an ideal which will always be cherished.

"So when a great man dies,
For years beyond our ken,
The light he leaves behind him lies
Upon the paths of men."

*Henry W. Longfellow on the death
of Charles Sumner.*

LIGHTS AND SHADOWS—1928 - 1935

“Shadow and sun—so too our lives are made,
Here learn how great the sun, how small the shade.”

Richard LeGallienne.

HIGHBROOK LODGE

EFFECTS ON THE BLIND people of their happy days in the country during the summer of 1927 were so marked that in the spring of 1928 serious consideration was given to the establishment of a permanent camp. Miss Sherwin and Mrs. Palmer inspected a property which was just then on the market. The location was five miles south of Chardon on a little traveled road, and the twenty-three acres extended up a hill and through an unbroken woods. The violets were thick on the banks of a busy little stream, the trees and flowering shrubs were showing their new green, and a deep tranquility pervaded the whole place. It had been used as a camp for children and the old house had been enlarged and two cottages added. Conditions seemed ideal for the restoration of tired bodies and depressed spirits, and through the generosity of Miss Prudence Sherwin and the Misses Josephine and Ida Grasselli, the place was presented to the Society. Charles B. Gleason, president of the Society at the time, made a liberal contribution for the needed alterations.

Followed busy and happy weeks for the volunteers, and the camp, named “Highbrook Lodge” by Miss Sherwin, was opened with a grand picnic on Saturday, June 28, 1928. The Past Masters Association of the Masons had arranged many dances and other affairs for the blind, and they were of great assistance on the opening day, furnishing ice cream and much of the transportation.

Members of the Optimist Club were the first guests as they had shown great interest in the project, raising funds in several ways. The precedent of having them go first to camp has always been followed.

The volunteers decided that cast-off furniture of many designs would not be used, and all equipment was new and well-

suited to the place and its needs. The list of contributions is far too long to be given here, but everything from lawn swings to kitchen utensils, from comfortable beds to a radio set, appeared as if by magic. Through the interest of James H. Rogers, a beautiful Baldwin parlor grand piano had been presented to Grasselli House and so the good upright was placed in the large living room at camp. In addition to the living room, the first floor contains a dining room large enough to seat thirty persons, kitchen, screened kitchen porch, bed room for the camp director, two bath rooms, and across the back of the house a dormitory with accommodations for nine persons. A wide screened porch, the length of the living room, was the popular gathering place when the weather was too cold to permit use of the lawn. The second floor of the house was reserved for the helpers. The two cottages each contained twelve beds for the campers.

Exploration of their "estate" always brought the keenest pleasure to the blind guests. Guiding wires on three-foot posts were strung from the house up the hill and through the woods to the limit of the property. Men and women who, since blindness, had never ventured out alone, could take long walks, resting on conveniently placed benches and listening to the birds and the wind in the trees. The mighty forest trees were of great interest with the surprising circumference of their trunks; an old apple orchard contained over one hundred trees, while in the rear of the house was an orchard of pear trees. Large tracts were covered with blackberry bushes and, tin pails hung over their left arms, the campers loved to pick the berries which later appeared in delicious pies. One of the chief delights was the song birds, while distant cow bells added to the impression of real country. Picnic tables beside the brook were used several times for each group, and after lunch there was always singing. The camp period was at first for two weeks which was shortened to ten days and finally to one week, in order that more blind people might have a turn. Volunteer motor service was used to transport the guests, and members of the committees gave their assistance in countless ways. All through the summer a member of the regular staff of the Society was in residence and not the

least advantage of this arrangement was the opportunity for increased acquaintance with the blind people and their many problems. On long walks through the woods and unhurried visits on the lawn, discussion of the adjustment of blind people to normal living was possible, and strong, valiant spirits among the group were shown the help they could give to those who were timid or discouraged. Among the women, most of whom were homemakers, there was a great interest in learning the preparation of unaccustomed food. In short, each camp period became a forum for the interchange of ideas, all of which carried over to their lives in the city.

A year after the camp was opened, Mrs. Gus Bamberger made a contribution to cover the cost of a recreation hall and the painting of all the buildings. A piano and victrola were presented for the new building which was named Friendly Hall. Several years later Miss Emilie Jungermann, one of the founders of the Society, gave the money to build another dormitory, called the Emilie Cottage. An important addition was made possible through a contribution made by Irving Stotter. Not far from the main house and half way down the hill, a solarium was built and daily sun baths were possible for all who needed them. A large platform was surrounded by a ten-foot wall having ground glass panels screening the cots from observation. The fourth side of the platform was connected with a small building where the cots were placed when not in use. This provision for hastening the recovery of people who are physically and nervously depleted has been greatly appreciated. The name over its door is STOTTER SOLARIUM. Miss Josephine Grasselli, recognizing the need for an additional bathroom in the main house, offered to meet this expense and also for certain alterations on the first floor. As the house was old, some repairs were needed from time to time.

A fireplace for outdoor cooking was built, the campers carrying or dragging the stones from even the most distant parts of the grounds. Recreational activities were too numerous to recount, but almost without exception the blind people wished to return and this was not always possible as first choice was reserved for

the newly blinded. During the summer season of 1942, 237 blind people spent a period at Highbrook Lodge. "I have not laughed so much in a year" was often heard as goodbyes were said, and one man, blinded at thirty-eight years of age, said at the end of his first experience at camp, "Well, now I know that it is not so terrible to be blind."

THE FORMATION OF THE JUNIOR COMMITTEE

In 1929 Mrs. A. A. Stearns, a Social Service Committee member possessed of energy and vision, suggested that a committee be formed to include the young daughters of the members and some of their friends. She discussed this idea with Mrs. John B. Dempsey, who consented to get such a group together, and in time a committee of fourteen young women was formed, Mrs. Dempsey acting as chairman. Their first interest was the promotion of the various activities of the Society and from the beginning they stimulated the store and other sales of blind-made articles. They were most helpful in supplying needed clothing, especially in families where there were children. The current problems of the Society were presented to them at their monthly meetings, and assistance and suggestions were always forthcoming. Motor service was given as needed, and they were of the greatest help in the matter of transportation to camp. They practically took charge of the dramatic performances put on by the Optimist Club, selecting the plays and, in one instance, contributing a play written for the occasion by Mrs. Dempsey. The scenery, costuming, and publicity were all arranged by members of this committee whose youth and enthusiasm were like a fresh breeze blowing through all parts of the Society's program.

MANUFACTURING AND MARKETING

Problems of Finance

The voluminous minutes of the Executive Board during the period 1928 to 1935 reveal only in part the problems which arose in every department of the work. Most difficult of solution

was the employment of the able-bodied blind. "Sales of brooms alarmingly low" appeared in the minutes of January 1928. That spring the suggestion was made that the Boy Scouts might distribute a good many house brooms, and in June a campaign was held with a total of 13,870 orders turned in. The publicity following this campaign stimulated the sale of all grades of brooms and so kept the shop busy during the otherwise slack summer months. The project would have failed without the generous co-operation of the Retail Merchants Board which undertook the delivery of the brooms and the collection of the money due. Up to 1943 a similar campaign has been put on each year, the greatest number of brooms sold being in 1942, when the total was nearly 28,000.

As it was an established policy to sell brooms to their ultimate users rather than to jobbers or chain stores, the depression affected, increasingly, the largest consumers—the factories. Sales declined from a total of \$71,007 in 1926 to \$49,000 in 1931. Yet in the latter year 19 blind men earned an average of \$18 a week and were employed 82 per cent of the possible working days. In 1933 the shop operated only enough to fill orders, and the treasurer stated "We can only work from day to day in the present situation." The broom shop was closed for one week in March, and by July the inventory showed only 88 dozen brooms in stock.

During 1933 sales in the Grasselli House Industries Department totalled \$5,900, more than one-third of this amount being paid to the blind workers. However, cost of sighted supervision was much higher than the wages paid to the blind workers, and this was a continuing problem, duplicated elsewhere.

Sales in three downtown stores and in numerous clubs, churches, and near-by cities were all arranged and carried through by volunteers. The women of the Council Committee, under the able leadership of Mrs. J. B. Wise, not only secured most of the places for such sales, but worked early and late, unpacking the stock, serving continuously as sales ladies and packing the stock at the close of the sale. Members of the Junior Committee were particularly resourceful on the publicity and

cooperated with other committees in the selling. Sales in this department for 1934 amounted to \$6,900.

As early as March 1928, the Welfare Federation summoned officers and trustees of Federated agencies to a meeting at which possible savings on budgets were discussed. The outlook was gloomy and was to grow darker for the six years following. The officers of the Society for the Blind gave a great deal of time and thought to the study of possible retrenchments, the staff was reduced, and repeated cuts made in salaries of those remaining. In 1931 the Welfare Federation asked for a report as to how an additional 15 per cent could be saved on the 1932 budget. As a result of measures adopted, the president was able to report at the annual meeting in February 1933 that the operating deficit for 1932 had been only \$4,105, instead of the \$8,000 to \$10,000 which had been feared. Discounts were not taken on account of lack of funds, monies from our investments were used to pay salaries and other expenses, these being later restored, and all through the year liquid assets were steadily depleted in order that all bills might be paid. At the close of the year 1932, the president stressed the fact that during the year when many concerns had to go out of business, less than \$100 had been charged to bad debts out of the total broom shop income of over \$48,000. The sale of 27 shares of American Telephone and Telegraph was authorized by the Executive Board, the amount received, \$2,570.27, to be deposited in the Cleveland Trust Company under the caption "Free Balance" and was to be used for running expenses but only to the amount of the Welfare Federation allotment which had not been received.

Announcement was made of a bequest to the Society from the estate of Mary T. Savage, the first payment amounting to \$10,000 which took care of the deficit for 1931 and left a balance to carry over into the following year. By April 1934 the treasurer Mr. Miller, reported that business was increasing, brooms manufactured the preceding month amounted to 428 dozen, with sales of 407 dozen. That month current income was \$6,576, with expenditures of \$6,399.

At the close of 1934 it was reported that the requested amount — \$17,850 — from the Welfare Federation, could not be granted in view of the failure of the Welfare Levy to pass. The amount for 1935 was finally fixed at \$12,470. The newly-elected president, Mr. Miller, said "During 1934 the tide of recession turned," and having weathered the storm thus far, the Society felt much encouraged as to its future.

ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT

The first refreshment stand was opened by the Society in the Morgan Lithograph Company in 1922. Vigorous search was then made for similar opportunities, as they provided employment for men who were not artisans and who were capable of making a good approach to the public. Factories, public buildings, and hospitals were canvassed, and at the meeting of the Executive Board in March 1928 it was reported that such stands were located in eleven factories and one hospital—Mt. Sinai. Through the efforts of the American Foundation for the Blind, legislation was secured permitting vending stands in Federal buildings and, in time, a young totally blind man was placed in the Federal Building, the former Post Office.

Five blind dictaphone operators had enjoyed steady employment for several years until the closing of two banks and one manufacturing plant and the removal from the city of another plant, caused the loss of four of the positions. Unremitting search was made for work for these well-trained and highly capable girls, but with no success, as during depression office procedure was re-arranged and handicapped persons were not hired. Two of the four girls took up massage, one was employed by the Ohio Commission for the Blind in Columbus, and the fourth is doing handwork at home. The fifth operator is still on her original position.

A few of the factory and other placements made by the Society were still available by 1932, when the following report was given at the annual meeting in February.

Wages paid during 1931 by the Society direct . . .	\$24,139.00
Earned in positions secured by the Society . . .	18,309.21
Estimated earnings of 13 stand operators . . .	10,750.00
Total	\$53,198.21

The list of miscellaneous employment is long and included lawyers, insurance agents, salesmen, and a blind couple whose canaries were given the blue ribbon year after year.

DEATH OF HELEN J. COFFIN

The Day School Department and work for the blind over the entire country suffered a severe loss in the death, on November 17, 1935, of Helen J. Coffin. She had come to Cleveland in 1917 to fill the newly-created position of vocational guidance teacher under the supervisor, Robert B. Irwin. When he left Cleveland in 1923 to become research director of The American Foundation for the Blind, Miss Coffin was appointed to his position, which she held to the time of her death.

Adequately prepared by temperament and training, she devoted her tireless energy to the development of the work to which she had dedicated her life. She was active in civic affairs, and was a valued member of the Executive Board of the Cleveland Society for the Blind. Of her Mr. Irwin said "Her sterling loyalty to the people and the principles that she believed in, is seldom met with these days."

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES OF BENEFIT TO CLEVELAND BLIND

The American Foundation for the Blind is a National Organization which, through extensive research, has developed ways and means of enriching the lives of all blind people. Among them are the following:

Concessions by which a sightless person and his guide may travel for one fare on trains or other common carriers.

Federal legislation which authorizes an annual expenditure of \$500,000 for books other than school books; \$400,000 to be

used for Talking Books and Talking Book machines, and \$100,000 for books in raised characters. All books are deposited with the 27 regional libraries, including the Cleveland Public Library.

Establishment of a fund from which scholarships are awarded to deserving blind students, several of whom have been Cleveland young people.

Publication in ink print and Braille of "The Outlook for the Blind," a magazine of great interest and importance both to the blind and the sighted people who work in their behalf.

Production of hunting case watches, faces of which are marked with Braille characters.

Promotion of legislation permitting vending stands in Federal buildings.

Extension of the Social Security Act to include blind relief, the Government now providing three-sixths of the total amount with the condition that the State carry one-sixth and the County the remaining two-sixths, the combined amounts not to exceed \$40 a month to any one individual.

Increase of Federal funds for Vocational Rehabilitation from an annual grant of \$1,000,000 to whatever is necessary, part of this to be used for the blind.

Promotion of the Wagner-O'Day Act of 1938 by which the Federal Government is required to purchase its supplies of brooms, mops and other suitable commodities, from the work shops for the blind.

Organization of an affiliated agency known as "The National Industries for the Blind" which allots Government orders for blind-made products to the various shops over the country, this including the Cleveland shops.

Summer Session for Workers With the Adult Blind

In 1942, at the request of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, the Foundation sponsored at Western Reserve University in Cleveland, a summer training course for home teachers and other workers with the adult blind. The curriculum

included the fundamentals of educational psychology, of social case work, social welfare organizations, causes of blindness and their social effects, and the history and philosophy of work with the blind.

This was the most extensive program of professional education which had ever been offered on a summer session basis. The first group numbered 21 students from 14 states, the majority of whom had had from five to twenty years experience in work for the Blind. The local Society for the Blind cooperated with the Foundation in providing special facilities for the blind members of the group, including volunteer reading service, more than fifty women having contributed to this effort. The Society also arranged special recreational and observation trips, and it is hoped that such summer sessions will be continued as long as there is sufficient demand for them.

The relationship between the Foundation and the Cleveland Society has always been a close one, as the need for a central bureau for research and information had been increasingly apparent for years. Mr. Irwin's many friends in Cleveland watched the development of the Foundation program with interest and also cooperation, as needed. Miss Prudence Sherwin, for thirty-three years either President or Vice-President of the Cleveland Society, served the Foundation as trustee from its inception to the time of her death in 1938, part of this time acting also as Vice-President and Chairman of the Budget Committee. Harold T. Clark, a trustee of the Cleveland Society, was appointed as trustee of the Foundation in Miss Sherwin's place.

The Executive Secretary of the Society served as a member of the Vocational Advisory Committee of the Foundation for many years.

* * *

DAY SCHOOL CLASSES

The Day School classes in the public schools at the opening of this period remained unchanged in pupil enrollment in spite of some decrease in total school population. In 1935 the number rose to a high of 41, one more than in 1925. After 19 years this

work had become so essential a part of the public school work that, even though one of the newer additions to public education, it was maintained throughout the trying years of the depression. Moreover the services of this department were continued except for minor retrenchments consistent with such changes and economies sustained in the work for normal children.

Some evaluation of this method of education could now be made. There was gratifying evidence of the contention that the blind child receiving his education in his own community derived definite benefits. It was seen that not only did the child come to know this community but the community became aware of the possibilities of the blind individual and its responsibility for placement of these boys and girls after education was completed. This local interest fostered higher education for gifted pupils during this period both by financial aid and by supporting their entering previously untried fields. Moreover the experience and friendship in public day school was a strong factor in later successful placements. For those whose lesser talents made outside placement impossible, the home ties and community responsibility, unbroken by periods of absence from home, gave family security and happier social adjustment in community life.

DEPARTMENT FOR THE BLIND IN THE CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Among the many hundreds of libraries in the United States, only twenty-seven have departments devoted to the reading needs of the blind. A large, cheery room in the Cleveland library is presided over by Mrs. Charles Roberts who is eager to be of service to all who come for advice or suggestions. Prior to 1930, all collections of books in raised characters were small, as the cost of producing them was almost prohibitive. By an act of Congress approved in March 1931, the project "Books for the Adult Blind" provided that \$100,000 be appropriated each year. These accessions injected new life into the Cleveland department and created great interest among all the blind who read tactile print.

After a period of experimentation by the American Foundation for the Blind, the so-called "Talking Books" were perfected and proved the greatest boon to the large numbers of people who were unable to learn to read with their fingers. Probably less than 20 per cent of all the blind can make any satisfactory use of raised type and so an approach through the ear was substituted for touch reading. Again Federal funds were generously allocated, this time to the making of Talking Books and the sum of \$400,000 is now available each year for them.

The Cleveland collection of books in tactile print was 24,909 in 1942, while the volumes on the Talking Book records numbered 7,477.

The addition of hundreds of hand-transcribed books made by volunteers has provided material especially needed by students and also many books of general interest.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The so-called "Blind Pension Act" in Ohio, having been declared unconstitutional in 1904, was re-enacted in 1907 and was in effect continuously up to the passage of the Social Security Act in 1935. The Boards of County Commissioners were charged with the administration, but as the law was permissive and not mandatory, some of the poorer counties of the state failed to levy the necessary taxes and indigent blind people had no financial relief.

Regular conferences between the County Relief visitors and those of the Society for the Blind are of mutual help in solving the many problems presented.

In 1915 the Cuyahoga County commissioners sought the aid of a committee of two volunteers to pass upon each application and decide on the amount of financial relief needed. Miss Prudence Sherwin, President at the time, and Robert B. Irwin, member of the Executive Board of the Cleveland Society for the Blind, served on this committee for several years, going very carefully into all the factors in each case. By 1917 the volume of work indicated the need for a full-time worker and Mrs. Edith McHenry was appointed and paid by the commissioners. She

served in the capacity of investigator until her retirement in 1936 and during those years had constant access to the case work records of the Society. In September, 1941, a new policy regarding blind relief was established and its administration assumed by the Cuyahoga County Relief Bureau, which not only made the investigations but took over all needed case work. This left to the Cleveland Society for the Blind the responsibility for providing suitable employment, recreation, and home teaching, together with whatever case work is needed by the large majority of the blind people who are not recipients of public aid.

THE RETAIL MERCHANTS BOARD

The Retail Merchants Board of the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce has given invaluable assistance to the Society for the Blind. In 1928, when the lay-off of workers in the broom shop seemed unavoidable, the Executive Secretary visited a city of size comparable with Cleveland. She learned of a recent campaign where the salesmen were members of Boy Scout troops of the city. Sales were unexpectedly large but no arrangement for deliveries had been made. Volunteers with private cars were doing their utmost, but it was many months before the last brooms were delivered. Before launching a similar campaign in Cleveland, the Retail Merchants Board was approached and, after consideration, agreed to making the deliveries and collecting the money due, as the laws of the Scout organization forbade the boys from doing more than soliciting the orders. Collections were even more difficult than deliveries and up to three calls were made to secure the money for, perhaps, only one broom. The campaigns have become annual events and the resulting employment has been a saving factor in the lives of many blind men.

Four of the largest retail stores have granted first floor space for one week each year for the sale of merchandise made in the homes of the workers or in Grasselli House shops. Free deliveries of purchases, charging of articles, and clerical assistance in making out sales slips, have all been donated in the effort to make each sale an outstanding success. Window displays have at-

tracted crowds and the daily newspaper advertising has included mention of the special sales. The Vice-President of one of the stores said that even the delivery men caught the enthusiasm and were eager to do their part. The stores have gone all the way toward helping blind men and women to become self-supporting.

THE CLEVELAND RAILWAY COMPANY

The many activities of the Cleveland Society for the Blind had, through the years, stimulated blind people to participation in normal work and play, and many of them learned to go about alone. Without suggestion from the Society, the Railway Company established a rule that cars should stop any place for a blind passenger. Dark glasses or a white cane indicated the need for special consideration and for many years this was accorded to blind people unaccompanied by a guide. With the great increase in traffic, this was no longer a safe procedure as oncoming cars could have no warning to slow up. In April, 1936, the Railway Company went much further, granting a concession by which a blind person and his guide were allowed to ride for one fare. Passes provided by the Railway Company were issued only by the Society for the Blind, and a small photograph of the user was pasted onto the face of each pass. The Society provided especially made cases in which the passes were to be carried, and there have been very few complaints of abuse of the privilege. At a cost of many hundreds of dollars, the Railway Company continues to help the blind population of Cleveland on their way toward normal living.

THE LIONS CLUBS OF CLEVELAND

Work for the blind, as a major project, was adopted by the International Convention of Lions Clubs, held at Cedar Point in 1925. Since that time, the several clubs in Cleveland have sought suggestions as to needs from the Cleveland Society for the Blind and have developed many plans of their own. Five blind men are welcome members of four of the seven clubs, two, being trained musicians, always do their part toward the enjoyment of the meetings. A large number of white canes have been pre-

sented by the Lions Clubs and Christmas trees and decorations were provided for Waring School where there are two Braille and one sight-saving class. Useful gifts were also presented for the blind pre-school children. Parties have been given and gifts provided for the blind in the sections of the city where the various clubs have their headquarters, and a great deal of motor service has been given, especially in connection with Highbrook Lodge, the summer camp. Individual members have assisted at the annual parties and picnics.

Jack L. Krapp, a member of the Lakewood Lions Club and a trustee of the Society, made a beautiful film called "Hands That Work in the Darkness" which showed every phase of work for the blind in the city. Recreational, industrial, and educational activities are included, as are committees in action. Costumes of the period of 1906, when the Society was organized, are worn by the people who represent the earliest organization meetings.

The film was given an award in the annual Hiram Percy Maxim contest held in New York in 1941, and its repeated showings in and near Cleveland have furnished the best of publicity to the public.

SORORITIES

In 1926 the Chi Omega Sorority lost by death Miss Grace Wetherill, one of its best loved members, and as a memorial to her it was decided to put the book "Magic Casements" into Braille for the benefit of blind readers. This was done at a cost of \$400 and the project stimulated the interest of the members in the various activities of the Cleveland Society for the Blind. Up to 1943 each of the sixteen years has brought a contribution from this fine group of young women. Annual requests for description of the several needs in the Society's program come in and are laid before the entire membership. Machinery for the shops, equipment for camp, a one-hundred dollar loan fund, and prizes for two reading contests have been financed from Chi Omega contributions. The contests, arranged by the Society and the departments for the blind in the public schools and the Library, aroused great interest. Two classes of contestants read

from unfamiliar Braille material. The first class consisted of readers who had been educated in schools for the blind, and the second class of persons who had lost their sight after reaching maturity. All were excluded from the room until their turn came and the judges, selected by the Library and the schools, rendered decisions which were felt to be well-considered. The prizes amounted to \$90, and a similar contest was held the year following.

Members of the Chi Omega Sorority have given a great deal of personal service, in addition to the total contribution, up to 1943, of \$1,451. They arranged for programs and refreshments for Open House occasions, assisted at the store sales, gave motor service, and were always ready to respond as unexpected needs arose.

The Delta Gamma Sorority adopted work for the blind as its major activity in 1938, and in various parts of the country interesting projects have been worked out. In Cleveland, financial and other assistance has been given; in personal service to blind individuals, in the sales held in the down-town stores, in supplying needed equipment, in motor service, in generous contributions toward the operation of the summer camp, and in valuable publicity for the Society.

THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Cooperation of Cleveland Boy Scouts has made possible the annual sale of blind-made brooms and the consequent increased pay to the blind workers. A dinner to eighty to one hundred Scout Masters is tendered by the Society two weeks before the opening of the campaign. Final plans are worked out and arrangements are made for the visit of the scouts to the shop where they are intensely interested in every part of the actual broom making. They at this time also receive their order blanks and final instructions. The Society pays the Scout Organization ten cents for each order turned in and this money may finance a stay at camp or any preferred expense.

VOLUNTEER BRAILLE TRANSCRIBING

Volunteer transcribing in Cleveland was started by an ad in the Plain Dealer in 1925, the suggestion coming from the fertile brain of Robert B. Irwin. Since then no effort to secure volunteers has been needed, and interest has increased year by year. In the beginning, the training period lasted for a year and a half which has gradually been shortened to six months—this including the mastery of Grades 1½ and 2. Completed material is submitted to the Library of Congress which furnished the manual, corrected the lessons and certified the transcribers on the successful completion of the course. At the annual meeting of the Cleveland group, the coveted possession of the loving cup is awarded to the transcriber who has completed the most pages of material containing the fewest errors. If the cup is awarded to the same person three times, it becomes a permanent possession and the transcriber does not compete further. Already three persons, two women and one man, have become the proud owners of such cups. An expert statistician has figured that the 30,000 pages produced by the Cleveland group in one year would take the full time of one person, working eight hours a day for seven years.

Materials are often small editions, as needed text-books for advanced students, and also for children in the Braille classes in the Cleveland public schools. Books of general interest are also produced and are presented to the Department for the Blind in the Public Library.

Mrs. Josephine Enever has been in charge of this work since its inception, and under the sponsorship of first, the the Howe Publishing Society, second, the Cleveland Society for the Blind, third the Volunteer Braille Transcribers Association and lastly, the Cleveland Chapter of the American Red Cross. At the present time an average of eighty persons are rendering this invaluable service to the blind.

THE OHIO COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

The Ohio Commission for the Blind, promoted at its inception by the Cleveland Society, in time established sales outlets in

various parts of the state. As before mentioned, a permanent sales counter had been opened at the Higbee Company in 1912 and teachers from the staff of the Commission gave instruction to Cleveland home workers. Volunteers from the Society gave continuous assistance to the Higbee counter for many years, and their special annual sales, 1912 to 1930, several times exceeded \$5,000. With the development of the Grasselli House industries through the late 1920's, Cleveland took more and more responsibility for the blind of Cuyahoga County. By 1934 only a few articles were sent from the Commission for disposal at the many Cleveland sales. The Commission financed and supervised many one-man broom shops throughout the state, the men having been trained in Columbus at the Commission's shop. One man, trained in the shop of the Cleveland Society, wished a business of his own and, with the cooperation of the Society, he was assisted in this venture by the Commission. Through the Cleveland Division of Health, nurses from the Commission gave constant attention to eye cases of a communicable nature.

A close relationship has always been maintained between the Society and the Commission, and the Executive Secretary of the Society was a member of the Commission's board of six persons from 1932 to 1938.

* * *

The presidents of the Society during this crowded and difficult period were Charles B. Gleason, 1928-1931 and 1934; John B. Dempsey, 1932-1933, and, although engrossed with their own business difficulties, they brought their energy and judgment to bear upon all the problems presented in the Society. The blind people, almost without exception, were cooperative and appreciative of the services extended to them. There were no strikes among the workers and almost no protests when wages had to be lowered and hours shortened. Throughout the life of the Society, mutual confidence had developed and this stood the strain caused by the trying times of the depression.

The hundreds of volunteers were the finest of interpreters to the public, and they seemed to redouble their efforts for the

blind, as, for instance, when camp could not be opened, they arranged a series of picnics at Highbrook Lodge, omitting no one who would have been included in the camp groups. With a reduced staff, the volunteers assumed the finishing of articles produced in the Grasselli House Industries department and also the guide service for Mrs. Enever, blind home teacher.

In passing, it is well to emphasize the fact that the Society has always operated with a small staff, considering the amount of work involved, and this has been due to the energy and devotion of the "unpaid staff" consisting of scores of people whose only pay was in the happiness and satisfaction which followed their efforts for the blind.

A meeting of world-wide importance took place in the Spring of 1931 when there assembled in New York a conference of workers for the blind from thirty-seven countries. This had been planned by the American Foundation for the Blind for two years and the coming of the depression necessitated heroic efforts to raise the needed funds. Lack of space prevents description of the many interesting features of this unusual gathering where the audience was seated by nationalities, each person being supplied with an ear phone through which he listened to the proceedings in his own language. The Executive Secretary of the Cleveland Society was chairman of the Exhibits Committee and this involved correspondence for many months prior to the opening of the conference, and the arranging for receipt and placing of exhibits, large and small, from around the world. At the close of the conference, all the delegates were taken on a tour of half a dozen cities east of the Mississippi, and Cleveland was host to them for two days.

LIGHT THROUGH WORK—1935 - 1943

“There is no law on the statute books compelling people to move up closer on the bench of life to make room for a blind brother, but there is a divine law written on the hearts of men constraining them to make a place for him, not only because he is unfortunate, but also because it is his right as a human being to share God’s greatest gift, the privilege of man to go forth to his work.”

Helen Keller.

THE PERIOD under consideration brought important changes, both in staff and in the facilities for the expanding program of employment. Edward R. Crawford assumed the position of Business Manager January 1, 1935, with responsibility for both accounting and sales. At the end of his first five months, he reported seven hundred calls, mostly on industrial concerns, in an effort to increase broom sales. The officers of the Society were gratified at his comment on the high standing of the organization in the community. Mr. Crawford’s previous training and experience had qualified him to introduce improved methods which proved of great benefit to the Society.

Mrs. Palmer tendered her resignation as Executive Secretary in April, 1941, at the end of thirty-years of service to the blind. She was elected to membership on the Board of Trustees and was made the Secretary of the Society. Miss Mabel J. Winsworth was appointed to fill Mrs. Palmer’s place. She had been on the staff for nineteen years, having carried heavy and very diversified responsibilities. She supervised both the case and group work, doing much of the actual work in both fields; she was, for many years, the counsellor of the West Side Committee, also assisting the other committees on social service; she was in charge of the physical properties of the Society—Grasselli House, the shops, and also Highbrook Lodge—and this included upkeep and the hiring and supervision of the help. Always cheerful, never hurried, she has always been a wonderful example for the hundreds of blind people with whom she was associated.

EMPLOYMENT

The chair-seating department had, for several years, been located on the third floor of Grasselli House and this involved much labor, carrying furniture up and down—this amounting to 1,400 pieces during 1935. Fire inspectors also objected to the hazard and it appeared that the work would have to be abandoned unless a more suitable location could be found. In 1936, by the terms of the will of Mrs. Meteline Wickwire, the Society became a beneficiary to an amount which, at first expected to be \$57,000, finally reached a total of close to \$80,000. After much consideration, it was decided to use part of these unexpected funds for the erection of an additional shop building on the Grasselli House grounds, and this was completed and occupied by September, 1937. The new building was of concrete, two stories, 60 x 100 feet, and at the same time, an addition of one story, 40 x 40 feet, was made to the shop built in 1921. Total manufacturing space was now 21,600 square feet, the buildings housing the broom and brush making, chair seating, tag wiring, and all the women's industries.

In 1937, an order for 80,000 tags to be wired for the Fisher Body Company had marked the opening of a department which, in time, employed up to 50 persons. This was called the "Contract Department" and by the year 1942 a total of 16,243,919 pieces was turned out. Much of this astonishing increase was due to the indefatigable efforts of Miss Martha Silberbach, a former business woman and a member of the Council Committee of the Society. She literally combed the city for suitable work, enlisting the cooperation of such important groups as the Midwest Purchasing Agents Association. This work furnished occupation and income to many otherwise unemployables, to boys just out of school, and also served as a testing point for many who were being considered for outside positions.

Success followed efforts to obtain additional stand concessions in down-town locations, these including the City Hall, Police Headquarters, and Community Service Building. Sales in eleven such stands, under the supervision of the Society, during

1942, totaled \$156,311, and furnished a living to 18 blind people. Two additional stands, set up by the Society but not at present under its supervision, are operated by three competent blind women.

At the close of 1942, 43 blind persons were working for employers other than the Society, 29 of this number being employed in factories.

Through the National Industries for the Blind, a subsidiary of the American Foundation for the Blind, greatly expanded employment opportunities for the blind in all parts of the country have been secured. Contracts for blind-made articles needed by the Government have been awarded to shops equipped to supply them. In Cleveland this has resulted in large orders for brooms, whisks, brushes, and pillow cases, and the resulting employment has practically taken up the slack of those wanting and needing work.

Annual sales in four down-town stores, The Higbee Company, The May Company, The Taylor Company, and Halle Bros. Company have supplied an outlet for the work of many blind women. A charming little shop in Grasselli House is open the year round, and its sales have been beyond all expectation. Members of the volunteer committees have conducted all the sales, in addition to selecting models and materials.

The following statistics for 1942 show satisfactory gains in all departments:

	1942	
INCOME:	1942	1941
Welfare Federation	\$17,887.00	\$13,797.00
Investments and Endowments	14,335.14	14,216.21
Direct Gifts	1,013.36	4,603.54
Sales Tax Stamps	1,862.50	2,134.65
All other income	399.83	565.66
Total Income	\$35,497.83	\$35,317.06
WAGES:		
To the blind	\$100,062.74	\$ 80,252.71

TOTAL SALES:

Industrial Shops	\$259,178.00	\$177,688.00
Store Sales	10,095.07	8,877.43
Concession Stands	156,311.07	121,616.15

PRODUCTION:

Brooms and Whisks	248,100	215,665
Brushes	2,631	2,865
Chair Seats	1,668	2,065
Rugs	1,428	917
Door Mats	2,179	2,179
Pillow Cases	309,873	166,088
Dish Towels Hemmed	5,328	10,653
Tags Wired, etc.	16,243,919	14,635,530

REHABILITATION

A fine type man of middle age, was sent to the Society by his oculist who explained that the man would have declining vision for perhaps a year, after which he would probably be blind. The man said to the Executive Secretary "I want you to show me how to make the best preparation for blindness, and you have only a year in which to do it." That was a challenge to all the resources of the Society, developed through more than a quarter of a century. Conditions in every case are different, but early procedure is the same. A careful study by a trained worker must be made of each individual—his health and the possibility of improving it; his mental attitude and its probable effect on his adjustment; his previous employment and the feasibility of his continuing it; his family and their attitude toward his blindness. Almeda Adams says "Those who sit in darkness should not sit in idleness," and occupation—even though simple—is a basic need. Counsel from informed workers is imperative at this point, as the general feeling is that blindness and helplessness go hand in hand.

Blinded people also need change of thought and this, of course, may come in many ways. One short week at a summer camp for the blind often works miracles and sends them home with renewed courage and a wide knowledge of how other blind people work and play. A recreation program such as that arranged by the Society, furnished through the year variety in many other-

wise monotonous lives, a chance for self-expression, as in dancing or acting, enjoyment of the best music, and opportunity of making new and congenial friends. A central meeting place such as Grasselli House is advantageous but not absolutely necessary, as has been proved during the war time limitation of gas. Conveniently located places such as branch libraries, social settlements, and dance halls may be utilized by people living in those sections of the city. In all recreational activities, the one **MUST** is the volunteers without whose help the entire program would collapse.

The total blind population of Cleveland at the close of 1942 numbered 1,129, of whom 10 per cent are under 20 years of age, while at least 50 per cent are past 65. This latter figure will indicate the need for many and diversified plans for recreation so that what should be the sunset path, may be lighted by happiness from within.

SURVEY OF THE SOCIETY MADE BY THE AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND

At the request of the Board of Trustees, the American Foundation for the Blind made a survey of all the activities of the Cleveland Society for the Blind. Miss Evelyn McKay, Social Research Secretary of the Foundation for the Blind, spent the period April 15 to May 3, 1940, in Cleveland, and Mr. Irwin, Executive Director of the Foundation, spent five days in consultation in the city. Miss McKay made several visits to other agencies having special services available for the blind of Cleveland, and she also met four times in special sessions with the Executive Committee of Society. The final report covered 50 typewritten pages, in addition to five appendices—one of them being an analysis of the staff. An excellent summary of the recommendations was made and copies were available to the officers and trustees. The survey revealed much to commend and many points where the work might be strengthened. It has since served as a bible to the trustees and staff members who check, from time to time, to see how far short of the ideal the actual performance has fallen.

DEATH OF MISS PRUDENCE SHERWIN

The year 1938 will always be remembered as the year when the Society lost its staunch supporter and most devoted friend, Prudence Sherwin. Her death brought profound sorrow to a host of friends and co-workers in all parts of the country. One of the founders of the Society, she served as President, Vice-President, or Secretary up to the time of her death. With untiring devotion she gave of her time and energy to the causes so close to her heart, work for the blind being a continuing — as it had been her earliest interest. She was an officer of the American Foundation for the Blind from its inception, so her viewpoint was national in its scope. She played an important part in the formation and maintenance of the Cleveland Welfare Federation, so was familiar with the local situation and the best of advisers of the Society for the Blind.

Endowed with unusual business acumen, she possessed at the same time a charming personality which endeared her to everyone who had the privilege of her acquaintance. To them — blind and sighted — her life will always be an inspiration, her memory a benediction. Robert B. Irwin, Director of the American Foundation, summed up her contribution in these words: "Her good judgment, breadth of vision and deep human interest made her an ideal board member, since she always kept a nice balance between the philanthropic spirit which prompts men and women to give and the demand for good business management which makes available funds to accomplish the maximum amount of service."

James R. Mills, a long-time officer of the Society, wrote "She almost impersonated within herself the Society for the Blind, and what we see today is no small part of her building. We owe it to her successors to see that they, if possible, catch her spirit and carry out her ideals in our great task."

HONORS FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Distinguished Service Certificate of the Cleveland Community Fund was awarded to Mrs. Palmer in November, 1939. The citation mentioned her 28 years connection with the Society

and stated that "Under her direction, the Cleveland Society for the Blind is outstanding among such institutions and a pattern for like societies the nation over."

In June, 1941, Mrs. Palmer was summoned to New York where, in the Helen Keller room of the American Foundation for the Blind, she was presented with the Migel Medal. This is a 3½-inch French bronze medal of beautiful design, and was given by M. C. Migel, President of the Foundation. A considerable company of friends had assembled, and the presentation speech was made by Harvey D. Gibson, a trustee of the Foundation.

SOME OF CLEVELAND'S OUTSTANDING BLIND PEOPLE

After nearly 40 years of effort on behalf of the blind of Cleveland, long-time workers often try to evaluate the progress which has been made. Educating blind and sighted together was one of the early experiments made by the Society and results have been closely watched. Educating the public to give full consideration to the abilities of the blind has demanded every effort. The question "Do the blind succeed as real persons; are they making a definite contribution to the advancement of both blind and sighted" can be answered in the affirmative. Out of many examples which could be cited, the following persons whose lives have centered in Cleveland are here offered:

MISS ALMEDA C. ADAMS

One of the most remarkable blind person in Cleveland is Miss Almeda C. Adams, whose life story is one of high achievement in spite of unusual difficulties. As a young girl in the Ohio School for the Blind she showed distinct musical ability. After graduation and longing for additional training, she entered a contest to secure 1,000 subscriptions to a women's magazine, the first prize being a year's scholarship at the New England Conservatory of Music. She did not stop her efforts until she had secured 2,500 subscriptions. The Conservatory did not at first wish to accept a blind pupil, but finally consented to a ten weeks trial, after which they were glad to have her continue. All her life, Miss Adams has taught sighted pupils, at one time serving as voice teacher for five years in the Nebraska Normal School. She was

especially successful in group work and directed chorsues in every settlement in Cleveland. She was one of the founders of the Cleveland Music School Settlement, and was director of its vocal department for several years. She organized the Schumann Club of young women and directed all its work, including the annual concerts. She wrote the words and music, coaching the singers, of an operetta called "A Modern Cinderella," and James H. Rogers wrote of the first performance—"The music is flowing and melodious, and the performance went smoothly and without a hitch."

Miss Adams was interested and helpful to the Society for the Blind in every way, especially during its early years, later serving on the Executive Board. She has followed all the blind pupils who showed musical ability, not so much with the expectation of finding a prodigy as with the hope that with their music they would be more acceptable in the sighted world.

Miss Adams made three trips to Europe and wrote a book entitled "Seeing Europe Through Sightless Eyes." She continued to write for publication, and has been on the lecture platform for many years. As a Sunday School teacher and an active member of several clubs, she has made a great contribution to the cultural life of the city.

MRS. JOSEPHINE ENEVER

The name of Mrs. Josephine Enever has been connected with the various activities for the blind in Cleveland for many years. Losing her sight at the age of fourteen, she entered the Ohio School for the Blind where she specialized in music, as she had a beautiful voice. After graduation, she taught piano and vocal music journeying to Chardon and other near-by towns to the homes of her pupils who were all sighted.

In 1914 she learned to operate a stereotyping machine and was employed by the Howe Publishing Society and the Department for the Blind of the Board of Education embossing books for blind readers. In 1927 the Howe Publishing Society was merged with the Cleveland Society for the Blind and discontinued the making of Braille books by machine but put increas-

ing emphasis on the hand-transcribing done by volunteers. Mrs. Enever was in charge of this work on a half-time basis, serving as Home Teacher for the Society the rest of her time. This made a unique combination, as during the morning she taught sighted people to make books for the blind, and during the afternoon, taught the blind to read them.

Her keen mind, charming personality, and unusual qualities of leadership drew around her a large group of transcribers who, when funds became scarce, formed the Volunteer Braille Transcribers Association which carried on with enthusiasm and devotion for several years.

Hand-transcribing eventually became a part of the American Red Cross program, and Mrs. Enever then devoted her entire time to it.

A perfectly competent housekeeper and homemaker, she has enjoyed a normal life which brought great happiness and also heavy responsibilities. Her devoted husband was blind, and her brother-in-law and his son, who was brought to Mrs. Enever as a baby on the death of his mother, remained as permanent members of this interesting family. Their home was always the center of a gracious hospitality extended to both blind and sighted friends. As an inspiration to all blind people, young and old, Mrs. Enever has few equals.

MISS WINIFRED SIMONDS

None of Cleveland's blind people started life with brighter prospects than Miss Winifred Simonds. Born in New York State, she graduated in time, from the Normal College at Potsdam. Wishing to specialize in music, as she was possessed of a beautiful voice, she entered the Crane Institute of Music at Albany, from which she also received a degree. Her first position was as a teacher of music in the public schools where she spent four happy years. During this time she had an accident to one of her eyes but was hardly handicapped by a light dimming of the sight. Moving to Cleveland with her family she secured tutoring in English and algebra, but her one good eye became involved and she gradually became totally blind. Undaunted, she sought the

acquaintance of a number of blind persons and was soon teaching and assisting them in various ways. An early concern of the Society for the Blind was home teaching of blind adults and Miss Simonds was the logical person to undertake this work. Her sound educational background and charming personality made her an ideal person for the position.

In 1912 she joined the staff of the Ohio Commission for the Blind, serving half time as registrar and half time as home teacher. She helped to organize the home teaching work over the state, the teachers coming in regularly for consultation. A severe nervous breakdown terminated her activities and she returned to Cleveland to make her home with a sister. For many years she has lived very normally, with most of her contacts with sighted friends in church and clubs. A charter member of the Optimist Club at Grasselli House, she was an early president, in which position her judgment and experience enabled her to build an enduring organization, the club being thirty years old at the present time. She has always been a leading spirit among the blind of the city.

ADOLPH FEHER

Adolph Feher has spent all of his life, except the first two years, in Cleveland and was entered in the kindergarten at the age of five. He was one of the brightest pupils in the Braille classes and early showed marked ability in music. He was given continuous instruction on both piano and clarinet, and in spite of a great deal of time spent in practice, his scholastic grades were high and he graduated from high school at the age of seventeen. He was a member of the Bausch Band composed of boys from both the Braille and Sight Saving classes and led by Jacob Bausch, teacher of band instruments. This group played together for several years, attracting favorable attention. Mr. Feher's ambition was to teach and with that end in view, he spent four years in study at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore. He was then considered to be qualified to teach organ, piano, and clarinet, and for the next few years taught private pupils. Residential schools over the entire country were

contacted in his behalf, but they, naturally, were interested in giving such openings to their former pupils. Mr. Feher then opened a refreshment stand in a fine, new hospital and attracted a good following—the personnel being especially interested as music was assured at their more formal meetings. In 1937, on the resignation of Miss Gertrude Leininger, for many years teacher of music in the Braille and Sight Saving classes, Mr. Feher was appointed to fill her place. Possessed of unusual mental and musical ability, Mr. Feher is outstanding among the young blind people of Cleveland.

JOSEPH S. HIMES, JR.

Joseph Himes came to Cleveland at the age of twelve years, following the loss of his sight by an accident. He was enrolled in the Braille classes and, in time, graduated from East High School receiving the Highest Honor Medal. He then entered Oberlin College where scholarships from that institution and from the American Foundation for the Blind helped him to obtain the education he so much wanted and deserved. He was awarded the Phi Beta Kappa key in his junior year and graduated Magna Cum Laude. He returned for a fifth year, at the end of which he received his Master's degree. Then the pressing question was "What next?" He was prepared for teaching and schools for colored students in various part of the country were contacted for some months, with no success. At last, he received an assignment to teach languages in Shorter College in Little Rock, Arkansas. It was during the depression and the meager salary which was promised was not paid in full, while he had expenses not needed by sighted teachers. Text books used were unfamiliar to him and the Cleveland Hand-transcribers group did an outstanding piece of work, without which he might not have held his position. Needed books were obtained, taken apart and put into Braille, the work often reaching him only a few days before he had to present it in class.

On the completion of his first year of teaching, he obtained a better position teaching languages and sociology at Sam Houston College in Texas. With his savings, he spent several

summers at Ohio State University where, in 1938, he received the Ph.D. degree. Since 1936 he has been Director of Research of the Columbus Urban League, and by the written and spoken word has made a real contribution to the cause to which he is giving his life. He is possessed of a delightful personality, with a keen sense of humor, and has made many friends among both blind and sighted.

MISS GERTRUDE LEININGER

Miss Gertrude Leininger became blind at the age of six and just after she entered school. She later became a pupil at the Ohio State School for the Blind where she took the regular course, and in addition specialized in music. After graduation, she continued her musical studies at the Oberlin Conservatory where she was the only blind pupil. Very little music was available in Braille and most of her material had to be read to her. Later she had a course at the Cincinnati Conservatory. After the organization of the Cleveland Society for the Blind she became its first home teacher of Braille. She also operated the first stereotyping machine producing Braille books for the Howe Publishing Society.

From 1913 to 1936 she was a highly esteemed member of the Staff of the Sight Saving Department in the Cleveland Public Schools. Her pupils in music were the totally blind children and also those possessed of some useful vision. With a lively imagination and a keen sense of humor, added to her adequate preparation, she was an inspiration to the hundreds of boys and girls who were her pupils. Through her school and church connections and membership in the Womens Music Teachers Club, the majority of her contacts have been with sighted people. She has also been a staunch supporter of all the social activities of the Society for the Blind, lending her prestige and influence throughout the life of the organization. She delights to entertain her friends in her attractive apartment where she is her own housekeeper.

MISS MARY HUGO

Miss Mary Hugo was born in Cleveland and did her elementary school work at the Ohio School for the Blind, entering

Glenville High School in Cleveland, from which she graduated after having done very creditable work. Her great ambition was to become a teacher and that, of course, meant college. She entered Flora Stone Mather College of Western Reserve University where she spent four of the happiest years of her life. She then took a course at the summer school of Teachers College, Columbia University. A few blind people in the country were successfully teaching in the public schools, and Miss Hugo was assigned to an eighth grade in one of Cleveland's junior high schools. She won the esteem of parents and pupils alike, but at the end of the year, under an arrangement by which a number of sighted teachers were dropped, her contract was not renewed. She became a home teacher for the Ohio Commission for the Blind and at the same time worked toward her Master's degree by doing evening work in the Graduate School of Ohio State University. In time, she was made a supervisor of the work of five other home teachers. Her district includes 21 counties, and she not only loves her work but is loved by everyone — blind and sighted. Her headquarters is near Granville, Ohio, where Denison University is located and where there is an active chapter of Delta Gamma Sorority. Miss Hugo has succeeded in gaining the enthusiastic cooperation of the Sorority members who are doing many things to promote the happiness of the Blind in that part of the state.

MILTON H. KLEIN

Milton H. Klein was born in Cleveland, but returned with his parents to Austria, Hungary, at the age of eight months. The family settled permanently in Cleveland when Milton was eleven years of age, and during his years abroad he had had one year of schooling in an institution for the blind in Budapest. He wrote of his return to Cleveland "I learned with delight of the special classes in the public schools and the prospect of associating with normal children, instead of being confined to a residential school." His progress was rapid and, after graduation from high school, he entered the University of Wisconsin, from which he was graduated with honors. He was determined to enter the

field of social work and applied for admission to the School of Applied Social Sciences of Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Here his lack of sight was considered a barrier, but his persistence, plus the influence of those familiar with his scholastic history, finally opened the apparently closed door. During the two-year course, his field work was done with the Cleveland Associated Charities, and this prepared him for his first position, that of a case worker with the Cuyahoga County Relief Administration. One year in this position was followed by two years as supervisor of visitors in the Bureau for Homeless Men. He then moved to Columbus where he was made State Case Work Supervisor, Aid to the Needy Blind, which position he held for four years. In December, 1941, he became Assistant Supervisor of Social Services, Ohio Department of Public Welfare. His advancement has followed a carefully-laid plan, his goal being service to both blind and sighted. His temperament is calm, and his personality pleasing. His early teachers and later friends are watching his career with deep interest.

MRS. CARRIE S. TURNER*

Mrs. Carrie S. Turner graduated from Tuskegee Institute and at once secured a position as teacher of domestic science at Phillis Wheatley Association, a settlement for young negro women of Cleveland. She was then for two years a member of the staff of the Urban League of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She later spent two summers studying Community Problems at Northwestern University, doing field work with the Associated Charities of Evanston, Illinois. After her marriage and the loss of her sight, she returned to Cleveland and for the following eight years served as a volunteer worker among the colored blind of this city. Under the direction of the Cleveland Society for the Blind, she took on more and more responsibility for all the problems among the colored blind and was made a member of the staff in 1941.

A committee of colored volunteers had been organized in 1923, arranged for much needed recreation, and did a great

*See Outlook for the Blind—June, 1942.

deal of visiting in the homes. Under Mrs. Turner's direction, five clubs of blind people were organized, the original one—the Cherrio Circle—having been started by her during her period as a volunteer worker. General parties and picnics are given for all the colored blind who are able to leave their homes, and the annual dramatic performances draw their players from all the clubs. A summer outing of one week is arranged by the Society for 30 men and women, and the program arranged by Mrs. Turner is eagerly anticipated.

The original committee of volunteers went out of existence with the passing of the Negro Welfare Association, and the present group—The Carrie Starks Turner Committee—carries on with great enthusiasm and marked success. Mrs. Turner's qualities of leadership and personal charm constitute a rare personality.

OPERATION OF THE SOCIETY

The Society is governed by a board of thirty trustees, two-thirds of whom are men. Luncheon meetings are held monthly, and attendance is surprisingly good. The trustee members serve on the following committees—Finance, Personnel, Shops Operation, Outside Employment, Publicity, and Legislation. Presidents for the period were—Galen Miller, 1935-1938, and Carl N. Osborne, 1939, to the present time.

Members of the five committees on social service furnish not only inspiration, but actual assistance to an extent which makes possible the comparatively small paid staff. All the committee members, together with a number of other good friends of the Society, make up a membership list of 150 persons who pay no dues but are always ready to respond to calls for help. At the annual meeting in 1942, Mr. Gleason, Treasurer and former President of the Society, closed a tribute to staff and volunteers with these words: "Theirs is a contribution from pocket books ever open, from thinking that is enthusiastic and sound, from physical effort that is tireless; yes, from the depths of the heart. It is such contributions that 'come wind, come weather' will keep this Society in equilibrium during the years to come."

APPENDIX

ANALYSIS OF STAFF

Continuity of service has been a marked characteristic of the staff of the Society. Following is a list of staff as of January 1, 1943, their responsibilities, and date they came to the Society:

Miss Mabel Winsworth	Executive Secretary	1922
Edward R. Crawford	Business Manager	1935
Miss Grace Emerson	Home Teacher	1924
Miss Elsie Roeser	Senior Case Worker	1937
Miss Ruth LaGanke	Group Worker	1937
Mrs. Carrie S. Turner	Worker for Colored Blind	1940
Miss Iris Schreiner	Case Worker	1941
Mrs. Irene Hall	Superintendent, Women's Industries	1941
Thomas DeChant	Superintendent, Broom Shop . . .	1920
Robert Wylie	Superintendent, Chair-seating Dept.	1928
James F. Hyka	Supervisor, Outside Employment . .	1942
Edward Unterzuber	Stand Supervisor	1940
Mrs. Lillian Russell	Clerical, Business Office	1935
Mrs. Mollie Koellisch	Clerical, Business Office	1933
Mrs. Helen Pecsok	Clerical, Case Work Office	1923
Miss Mary Coprich	Clerical, Case Work Office	1936

OFFICERS AS OF JANUARY 1, 1943

Osborne, Carl N.	President
Miller, Galen	First Vice-President
Clark, Harold T.	Second Vice-President
Frackelton, Mrs. David W.	Third Vice-President
Gleason, Charles B	Treasurer
Palmer, Mrs. Eva B.	Secretary

PAST PRESIDENTS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Term of Service</i>
Stearly, Dr. Wilson R.	1906, 1907, 1908
Hunt, William H.	1909, 1910
Strong, Herbert W.	1911, 1912, 1913
Sherwin, Miss Prudence	1914, 1915, 1916
Mac Gregor, John	1917
Kennerdell, George B.	1918, 1919
Sherwin, Miss Prudence	1920, 1921, 1922, 1923

PAST PRESIDENTS — *Continued*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Term of Service</i>
Strong, Herbert W.	1924
Mills, James R.	1925, 1926
Teagle, Frank H.	1927
Gleason, Charles B.	1928, 1929, 1930, 1931
Dempsey, John B.	1932, 1933
Gleason, Charles B.	1934
Miller, Galen	1935, 1936, 1937, 1938
Osborne, Carl N.	1939, 1940, 1941, 1942

OTHER OFFICERS

<i>Name and Office Held</i>	<i>Term of Service</i>
Bosworth, Richard — Treasurer	1935, 1936, 1937, 1938
Brassington, Miss Emma — Treasurer .	1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910
Burdick, Miss Arlene — Secretary . . .	1911, 1912, 1913, 1914
Cameron, Miss Winifred — Secretary .	1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927
Cotton, Miss Margaret — Secretary . .	1928, 1929, 1930, 1931
Feiss, Paul — 1st Vice-President	1906
Gleason, Chas. B. * — Treasurer	1927, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942
2nd Vice-President	1936
Hyde, Mrs. H. Robinson — Secretary .	1936
2nd Vice-President	1937, 1938
Hornickel, Miss Edith — Secretary . .	1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920
Kennerdell, Geo. B. * — 1st Vice-Pres. .	1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1920, 1921
2nd Vice-President	1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926
Treasurer	1911, 1912
MacGregor, John * — 1st Vice-President	1909, 1910, 1911, 1912
Mills, Jas. R. * — 1st Vice-President . .	1922, 1923, 1924
Osborne, Carl N. * — Treasurer	1913, 1914, 1915
Prescott, John S. — Secretary	1937, 1938
Roth, Richard — 1st Vice-President . .	1935, 1936, 1937
Robbins, Mrs. E. E. — Secretary	1932, 1933, 1934, 1935

**Also served as President, as previously indicated.*

OTHER OFFICERS — *Continued*

<i>Name and Office Held</i>	<i>Term of Service</i>
Sherwin, Miss Prudence* — 1st Vice-President	1917, 1918, 1919, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929 1930, 1931
2nd Vice-President	1912, 1913, 1928, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935
Secretary	1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1924
Teagle, Frank H.* — 1st Vice-President	1928
Treasurer	1916-1926 (11 years)
West Louis — Treasurer	1928, 1929, 1930, 1931
Wilson, Griswold — 1st Vice-President .	1932, 1933, 1934
2nd Vice-President	1929, 1930, 1931
Secretary	1939

**Also served as President, as previously indicated.*

MILE STONES

- 1906 — Society organized. Weaving begun at Goodrich House.
- 1909 — Broom Shop started. Day School classes opened. Society incorporated.
- 1911 — Prevention of Blindness work turned over to Division of Health. Change of executives.
- 1912 — Broom Shop moved to Goodrich House gymnasium.
- 1913 — First factory placement.
- 1918 — Moved to Grasselli House.
- 1921 — New Broom Shop and Recreation Hall.
- 1925 — Work for the blind adopted by Lions Clubs of the country as major activity.
- 1927 — Operated temporary summer camp as experiment.
- 1928 — Highbrook Lodge — permanent summer camp presented to Society by three friends.
Assumed all home teaching for greater Cleveland. (This had been carried, in part, by Ohio Commission for the Blind.)
Took over activities of Howe Publishing Society, discontinued making plates for books; continued and strengthened hand-transcribing work by volunteers.
Inaugurated Boy Scout broom-selling campaign, by means of which shop is kept running through summer months.
- 1937 — New industrial building.
- 1941 — Change of executives.

